

Submitter: Spencer McIntyre

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Good afternoon Chair Broadman and Vice-Chair McLane and committee members,

I am writing you today to voice my strong support for the 1.25% for Wildlife tourism tax. We all know that Oregonians love the wildlife and nature that we are blessed to be in proximity to it here in the Pacific Northwest. This small increase to the tourism tax will allocate dedicated funding to Oregon's fish, wildlife, and natural resources - funding that is needed urgently to safeguard keystone species that are essential to our ecosystem and that tourists flock to Oregon to enjoy. 65% of the lodging tax is paid by visitors to this amazing state, and asking them to invest in the beauty of this place is just good communal responsibility.

This would also allocate funding to increase relationships between wildlife and people specifically providing rural Oregonians and ranchers with resources in navigating wolf recovery in the state. As an Oregonian who has lived in both rural and urban areas around Lane County, this type of bridge building with our neighbors is extremely important to me.

There are a whole other slew of reasons why this tax increase makes sense - we simply cannot meet the state's most urgent conservation goals without funding to engage with work in a meaningful way.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Spencer McIntyre