

Submitter: Christina Scarzello  
On Behalf Of: myself and Oregon's flora and fauna  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Hello - I'm Chris Scarzello and I live in Portland but play all over this wonderful state. We are SO LUCKY to have it all! Rafting, skiing, backpacking, hiking, camping, fishing, clamming, hunting, foraging, birding...the coast, the cascades, the high desert, the Gorge, the badlands, SE, SW, NE, NW....and the list goes on. Oregon is special because of her incredibly diverse landscape. And this beautiful landscape holds some precious diverse habitats.

I am writing to support HB 4134 and the amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%. Oregon's recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy ecosystems. HB 4134 is a great way to support the ecosystems that bring people to the state to recreate. The money will help provide dedicated long-term funding to help recover our most at-risk fauna and flora. Do you know that the outdoor economy generates over \$15 billion in consumer spending in the state? And of course you know that federal funding for flora and fauna is greatly reduced, necessitating all of you, our state legislators, to step up and support a bill that will help fund the health and well-being of our important ecosystems. Please vote yes for this very important bill!

I spent my younger years in Oregon volunteering with several organizations working to add river segments to the State Scenic Waterway Act, and to designate additional river segments as protected under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The effort was bipartisan because wildlife needs all of our support. Back then we had the ears of John Kitzhaber, Ron Wyden, and Mark Hatfield (remember him!). I hope we have all of your ears for this effort! Thank you.