

Submitter: Katherine Futornick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Katherine Futornick, and I live in the rural area of Dayton, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help the recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

I moved to Oregon more than 50 years ago and was grateful to be in a state which valued its wildlife and wild areas. My hope is that Oregon continues to realize the value of our diverse habitats and the wildlife which rely on those habitats for survival. This is one tax that is supported by my neighbors and friends, locally and throughout the state. I urge you to support this bill which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats.

From an economic perspective, Oregon's outdoor tourist economy contributes approximately 2.6% to Oregon's GDP, according to 2023 data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). This sector is a significant economic driver for the state, accounting for over \$16 billion in annual economic output and supports 192,000 jobs.

The industry is a cornerstone of the Oregon economy, and while Oregon leads the national average for outdoor recreation, with the state having a higher percentage of GDP from outdoor recreation (2.4%) than the national average, this is a growth sector nationally. For Oregon to retain its competitive edge in this industry, we need to have thriving fish and wildlife, and habitats to continue to attract outdoor recreational tourists .

With dwindling federal support, it's up to all of us Oregonians to ensure our vulnerable wildlife, fish, and their habitats are protected and preserved for today and for future generations. Please pass HB4134 this legislative session.

Thank you for your support,

Katherine Futornick
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