

Submitter: Ruth Morton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

My name is Ruth Morton and I have lived in Gladstone Oregon over 40 years. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%. I support this bill because I care deeply about the natural world and this state.

This bill, which will secure long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians like me. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future. Personally, I will gladly pay this lodging tax because of its purpose. I travel extensively in the US and know that our Oregon lodging tax is among the lowest in the country. It is a relatively painless tax.

We will not have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the beautiful habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. Especially at a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Will you support us in making Oregon a national leader in this arena?

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

Ruth Morton