

Submitter: Michael Lang

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,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 4134. My name is Michael Lang and I live in Portland, Oregon.

Fish and wildlife habitat protection in Oregon has been historically underfunded. HB 4134 would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to fund recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and the habitats they depend on for survival. HB 4134 would also fund wolf depredation compensation for Oregon farmers and ranchers, anti-poaching efforts by Oregon Department of Justice and the state police, and support the Oregon Conservation Corps.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitat, 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.

A thriving tourism economy depends on healthy and abundant fish and wildlife habitat. This legislation would ensure we have both. 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.

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

Thank you.