

Submitter:

Susan Woodside

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am writing in support of HB 4134 as an Oregon resident, taxpayer, grandmother, and travel enthusiast. I feel it is vital that we protect and encourage wildlife in our state, and a 1.25 percent surcharge on hotel and short-term rental charges seems a reasonable and fitting way to convey our state's commitment to that. As a retired person, many in my demographic are avid birders, hikers, photographers, artists, and hunters, and travel widely around the state. The unmatched thrill of seeing puffins at Haystack Rock, elk in the coast range, or antelope in eastern Oregon draws many visitors from out of state as well, and is something I hope my grandchildren can experience years into the future. Given the many fees hotels now routinely charge for parking, cleaning, wifi, and incidentals, a \$2.50 charge on your typical \$200 hotel bill does not seem prohibitive. Wild creatures in this state are under duress from the federal relaxation of emissions and wetlands protections; Oregon must do its part to protect habitat and air and water quality. Please vote yes on this important measure.