

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

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Collins. I'm writing to express my strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats. The high desert and sagebrush steppe are central to what makes Oregon special. It's why people choose to live, visit and recreate here.

People come to Oregon from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty of our state. This small lodging tax increase will help to protect and restore the places, plants and animals that we all love.

Oregonians want to see our wildlife and natural habitat thrive. My husband and I are native Portlanders and have a strong personal connection to the high desert. Fort Rock is my "heart" place. It's the place my husband proposed to me. It's where I go for peace and grounding. Malheur and the Harney Basin are incredibly important to wildlife and draw in many bird enthusiasts (and our money) every year.

But it's not just tourist hotspots that matter. It's a connected ecosystem. No one place can be seen as isolated in the large, diverse high desert and sagebrush steppe. HB 5134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation, securing sustainable funding to recover and protect Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, wildlife corridors and resilient landscapes.

Please support HB 4134. Thank you.