

Submitter: Kiffi Harris

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 Kiffi Harris and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to please support HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%.

I live and vacation in Oregon and the passing of this legislation is very important to me. I volunteer in a wildlife rehabilitation center in Oregon and see all the injured and orphaned animals that are brought to the center for care. I would happily pay additional tax on my lodgings to protect Oregon's natural spaces and the wildlife that live there.

If this legislation passes it will provide Oregon an opportunity to make huge strides in habitat and wildlife protection at a time when the Federal Government is slashing these protections. A few of these benefits are:

- A wildlife stewardship program to educate the public about how to safely coexist with our wild neighbors.
- Establish a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers that are the front lines of human and wildlife interactions. These centers currently rely on donations to support the work they do caring for thousands of patients a year.
- Support wildfire prevention.
- Create a sustainable source of funds for ODFW programs to support imperiled species and support biodiversity.

A yes vote on HB 4134 will provide sustainable funding for frontline organizations that help protect Oregon's natural spaces, imperiled species and other wildlife.

Thank you,  
Kiffi Harris