

Submitter: Emily Ziegler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Please Support HB 4134 with the -1 Amendment

Dear Senators,

My name is Emily Ziegler, and I have been a resident of Deschutes County for over 30 years. I choose to live in Central Oregon because of the values that define our state—conservation, stewardship, and deep respect for our natural world.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment. This bill increases the state lodging tax by 1.25% to secure long-term funding to recover at-risk species, strengthen wildlife corridors, reduce wildfire risk, and protect landscapes statewide. It is a practical, forward-looking investment that will profoundly benefit our economy and communities.

Oregon's tourism economy contributes 2.6% of our GDP, supports roughly 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. We cannot sustain that prosperity or economy without sustaining the lands and waters that make it possible.

Your constituents consistently show strong support for conservation and investment in the ecosystem.

Your constituents prioritize enacting solutions that benefit everyone, not just a minority of companies and businesses that claim the tax threatens their existence and profit margins. Ironically, their profits are generated by people who come to enjoy Oregon's landscapes, rivers, lakes, mountains, and wildlife.

Your constituents elected you to uphold our interests by ensuring that everyone participates in the work required to protect Oregon's habitats and wildlife.

At a time when federal environmental protections face uncertainty, Oregon has both the opportunity and responsibility to lead. Please vote in support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Emily Ziegler  
Deschutes County, Oregon