

Submitter: Noah Angell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134
Chair Broadman, Vice-chair McLane and committee members,

My name is Noah Angell. I recently moved to Eugene but have been visiting Oregon long before that.

As a fish biologist, I understand how critical stable funding is for protecting the wildlife and habitats that make Oregon so special. But I am not here today as a biologist, I am here as a traveler, someone who experiences Oregon and the natural world through exploration and connection.

My favorite thing to do is to travel throughout Oregon and experience its natural beauty for myself. The sheer variety of landscapes here are unmatched: high desert, dense old-growth forests, alpine habitat, rivers, wetlands, and much more. And although these landscapes are breathtaking on their own, it is the wildlife that truly brings them to life. What would forests be without the chirping of birds, or our wetlands without the chorus of frogs? What would the ocean be without whales breaching in the distance and our rivers without the return of spawning salmon? These species do more than just inhabit these places, they define them. Without wildlife, these places including Oregon would still exist but lose their identity, their voice, their soul.

They are part of what drives Oregon's identity, economy, and quality of life. People travel here from across the country and the world to experience this wildlife and these landscapes. I am one of those people, and it is why I chose to build my life and career here.

As someone who regularly travels to experience wildlife and wild places, I would gladly pay a small increase in lodging tax if it meant protecting the species and habitats that make Oregon so special. It is a small investment but one with lasting return.

I urge you to support HB 4134 and help ensure that Oregon's fish, wildlife, and wild places remain healthy and abundant for generations to come. Thank you.