

Submitter: Riley Degruyter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Riley. I am an 18 year old high school senior from Bend, Oregon. I am writing in support of HB 4134, the 1.25% for Wildlife bill.

I care deeply about the environment and about my home state. Growing up in Central Oregon has made that almost automatic. When you spend your weekends camping in the mountains or hiking along local trails, you see how important healthy wildlife and habitats really are. They are part of our identity and part of our economy.

HB 4134 would create a dedicated funding source for wildlife conservation through a modest 1.25% increase in the Transient Lodging Tax. Most of that increase would be paid by visitors who come here because of Oregon's natural beauty. Oregon would remain among the lowest lodging tax states in the country.

As a young Oregonian who will live with the long-term consequences of today's decisions, I strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB 4134. Protecting wildlife is not just about today. It is about the kind of state we want to hand down to the next generation.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Riley de Gruyter