

Submitter: Matt de Gruyter  
On Behalf Of: Next Level Burger and Veggie Grill  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

My name is Matt de Gruyter, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Next Level Burger & Veggie Grill, an Oregon-based business. I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB 4134 – 1.25% for Wildlife.

Oregon's wildlife and natural landscapes are integral to the state's identity, environment, and economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism are major economic drivers for communities across Oregon, and the health of our ecosystems directly affects visitor demand and quality of life. Despite this, funding for wildlife conservation and habitat restoration has historically been insufficient, leaving many species and critical habitats vulnerable.

HB 4134 will establish a reliable, long-term funding source to protect Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats by increasing the statewide Transient Lodging Tax by 1.25%. Most of this modest increase would be paid by out-of-state visitors, yet Oregon would retain one of the lowest lodging tax rates nationally. This approach aligns the use of the tax with those benefiting from Oregon's natural resources while preserving competitiveness in tourism.

For these reasons, I urge a YES vote on HB 4134. Stable funding for conservation and ecosystem health is not only an environmental priority but also a sound economic strategy for the long-term well-being of Oregon's communities.

Cheers,

MD