

Submitter: Kerani Mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Committee -

Please support HB 4134. Oregon's wild spaces and the animals that inhabit it are part of what makes our state so special, attracting many visitors to recreate, vacation, and enjoy the beauty. With each visitor, there is increased revenue and benefiting local business owners and workers, alike. It's logical to redirect earned income from lodging tax to protect what draws people here. It's also the right thing to do. The impact of not protecting natural spaces and animals is very apparent this year with the decline in snowpack and wildlife, paired with an increase in fire risk. The fires reduce the visitors who come to Central Oregon as the air quality suffers and our children can't play outside.

By allocating a small percentage of lodging tax to protecting the conservation our state's wildlife and fauna, we are ensuring that these statewide wonders and access to them can continue year-round and hopefully thrive for future generations of residents and visitors, alike. This is a win for all of us living here and for everyone who visits.

Please invest in what makes Oregon amazing by protecting the spaces and animals that draw so many of us to call this place home.

Thank you,
Kerani Mitchell