

Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is Brent Veak and I live in Portland, Oregon.
I'm writing in strong support of HB 4134.

A 1.25% increase in the state lodging tax is a small ask with an outsized return. Oregon's outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and \$16 billion in consumer spending, none of which exists without healthy fish, wildlife, and the habitats that sustain them. This funding protects that ecosystem, literally and economically.

Beyond Oregon, this matters. At a moment when federal protections for vulnerable species are being cut, states have an opportunity and I'd argue a responsibility to step up. Passing HB 4134 positions Oregon as a national model for how to protect natural heritage while investing in the communities and economies that depend on it.

This is good for wildlife. It's good for Oregon. And it sets a standard the rest of the country can follow.

Please pass HB 4134.

Thank you,

Brent Veak