

Submitter: Stacey Kline

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

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

My name is Stacey Kline and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

The opposition says this tax does not support tourism, that could not be further from the truth. Money from this tax improves all the things that bring people to Oregon such as wildlife and native habitats, but also supports jobs and economic development. If we do not take care of our natural resources, tourism and the quality of life for Oregonians will decline. Look at Fisherman's Bend campground on the Santiam River. It was burnt to the ground and will take decades to start to recover. Nobody wants to camp here and dollars are not going into local businesses. This bill is attempting to deal with issues that have become deferred maintenance in the natural world.

Now is the time to create a secure funding mechanism for the future of all Oregonians, that includes people, wildlife and natural habitats. Species and ecosystems are in grave danger from climate change and human impact. We must act immediately!

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

Stacey Kline  
Salem, Oregon