

Submitter: Giordano Pena
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Good day legislatures of Oregon,

My name is Giordano Pena, I am a Science educator in the state of Oregon. As such I am well aware of the value and importance of healthy habitats/ecosystems for our vulnerable fish, wildlife, and plant communities. This lodging tax of 1.25% is an important step in recovery for plants and animals that have been impacted by human activity. My love for our state stems from the robust outdoor space our state contains. Our fish, wildlife and diverse habitats, which includes our high desert and sagebrush steppe are crucial to our state's pride AND our states economy as people visit Oregon to see and recreate in these spaces.

As a father, I want to pass this love for our state and these natural habitats down to my children. I want all generations of Oregonians to be able to enjoy this gift that was offered to me. The way we do this is by protecting and rehabilitating our natural spaces. I dream of a future that is not just preserving what we have now, but to bring back the beauty of these spaces before significant human activity of the past century. HB 4134 is a step in that direction and this opportunity should not be passed.

HB 4134 is not only good for the environment, it is good for the economy. Outdoor recreation in Oregon and tourism needs healthy lands and waters to thrive. They contribute 2.6% of Oregon's GDP and support 192,000 jobs (\$16 billion in consumer spending). Protecting our wild spaces and species is not an option if we want to protect these industries. This does not take into account the economic cost savings provided by healthy and intact ecosystems: Cleaner water, protection from extreme weather, and healthier soils, just to name a few.

It is time for Oregon to lead the nation in protecting our wonderful and precious resources. By passing HB 4134, Oregon will show the country what it means to be stewards of our land. The failure of our federal government to lead this charge puts the onus on us to protect and rehabilitate the land that has given so much to us. Protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardships and sustain healthy ecosystems. All of these things support healthy people and a healthy economy. We need your action NOW. Vote in SUPPORT of HB 4134.

Thank you for listening,

Giordano Pena

Oregonian, Parent, Science Educator, Outdoor enthusiast