

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

I am a frequent traveler, and decisions about the places I go - both in Oregon and elsewhere - are driven by access to nature and wildlife. Whether it's backpacking and being thrilled to see a porcupine (from a distance), or taking my family to Lost Lake and explaining to my daughter the importance of habitat for amphibians, these are the experiences I specifically travel for. As someone born and raised in Oregon, and who is proud to live here now and raise a family, I know that the protection of these resources is what I want to see us pass along. I would be happy to pay an extra 1.25% on my hotel bill to support the things that make Oregon special.

But this isn't just about the protection of wildlife for their own sake. When I travel, I eat at local restaurants, I buy hiking and camping equipment from local retailers, and I patronize the downtowns of the communities that act as gateways to these adventures into nature. I have heard from detractors of this proposal that this bill doesn't generate economic activity and, frankly, it makes my head spin. Try booking a weekend stay at a state campground, or visiting a trailhead in the gorge, and tell me that the people who are out there exploring the wonders of Oregon aren't spending any money. This is an investment that makes sense, one that ensures we continue to be a destination for people looking to explore.

Lastly, on the wildlife front, this is about heading off future conflict. When a species gets listed as endangered, it means we must take drastic steps to intervene and head off extinction. It's expensive. It's messy. It creates a lot of conflict. This bill is an ounce of prevention, so we don't have to take the pound of cure.

In short, HB 4134 makes sense. It invests in the things that I love about Oregon, in a way that captures value from the people who are visiting for the same reasons I live here. It puts fuel in our economic engine, and it works to prevent some of the natural resource conflicts that have defined Oregon in the past.

I urge you to support this bill.