

Submitter: Allen Barber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Disclaimer: This testimony is submitted as a private citizen. These views are my own and do not represent the official position of my employer.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Allen Barber, a resident of Cannon Beach and a professional in the tourism and DMO industry. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4134.

I want to be clear: as someone who lives and works on our beautiful coast, I believe wildlife management is essential. Our natural heritage is part of what makes Oregon special. However, I strongly disagree with the funding method proposed in this bill.

Adding a 1.25% increase to the state lodging tax places an undue burden on a single industry. In the tourism sector, we are already seeing visitors become increasingly price-sensitive. When you combine this proposed state increase with local taxes, travelers in places like Cannon Beach face some of the highest effective tax rates in the region.

We need a broad-based wildlife funding solution that reflects its status as a shared state priority. Relying on the "backs of the tourism industry" to fund non-tourism services is unsustainable and harms the hardworking people in our hotels and restaurants who rely on visitor volume.

Please explore alternative funding models that do not penalize Oregon's tourism economy. I urge you to vote No on HB 4134.