

Submitter: Jennifer Stout

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Oregon Legislators:

My name is Jennifer Stout. I live at 12136 SW 29th Ave., Portland, OR 97219.

I very strongly support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%.

The exciting thing about HB 4134 is that it provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk fish, wildlife and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

There's a huge economic reason to protect our wildlife and habitats, and keep our ecosystems healthy. It's not just because we want to see the things we love and value protected. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

Our natural places are at risk and federal funding and protections continue to be cut. State leadership is critical at this time. This bill will make Oregon a stand-out example of the role states can play to protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, and protect ecosystems.

I've lived in Oregon 35 years. The beauty of these natural places feeds my heart and soul as I hike, backpack, climb, and ski these amazing places. I know many others for which this is true. It's a big part of why we live here and why others visit. Already many of the places my husband and I used to go to hike, climb, and backpack have burned or been degraded by extreme weather events such as high winds, and torrential rains. Precious few places remain and they need to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Stout