

Submitter: Evan Forsythe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Evan Forsythe, and I live in Bend, Oregon. I strongly support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the lodging tax by 1.25% to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. As a biology professor and lifelong naturalist, I spend my free time hiking, foraging mushrooms, and exploring the sagebrush steppe and forests that make this region so special. Oregon's identity is inseparable from its landscapes and native species—they are why people come here and why so many of us choose to stay. With uncertainty around federal conservation funding, this is a moment for Oregon to lead. HB 4134 would provide the long-term, dedicated investment needed to steward our biodiversity and ensure that future generations inherit a state as wild and vibrant as the one we love today.