

Submitter: Diana Richardson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

What could be more important to the well-being of all Oregonians, including the non-human Oregonians, that call this land home? Protecting wildlife and habitat is not something to be taken lightly...or because we feel empathy with our non-human counterparts or we "feel bad" about the ongoing harm to and extinction of our wild friends, though this is where we may begin. Without protection of wildlife and habitat we--the humans--do not survive. The rate at which that is happening--and it IS happening--may not be dramatic enough to get the attention of many people.

Water quality: WATER IS LIFE is not just a slogan, but a taken-for-granted revelation. Clean water, cool water, is necessary for salmon and all the wildlife and habitat that depend upon the flourishing of wild salmon. Clean water is essential to all! We cannot drink polluted water.

Wildfires and their aftermath destroy habitat and pollute rivers and streams making recovery a long, slow and unsure process. We must use these funds to protect wildlife and habitat from the devastation of wildfires, when the bill is approved.

Transient Occupancy Tax, will be little affected even after the 1% increase to do what we must. Anyone who visits Oregon will thank us as they pay their tax for having the foresight and integrity to protect ourselves and our environment which adds to their enjoyment and appreciation of one of the most awe-inspiring natural environments in the lower 48.