

My name is Scott Lukens and I have asked Darlene Betat to deliver my testimony on hb3374. I am not able to be present for the public hearing as I am in Eastern Oregon with a group of birders raising money to support the programs of Portland Audubon Society.

As a small business owner and passionate wildlife enthusiast, I strongly support and believe in the merits of hb3374.

My business, Backyard Bird Shop, is an independent, Oregon-based, chain of retail stores catering to hobbyists who love and feed wild birds in their backyards. Birdseed sales are about 50% of annual sales and our Portland stores sell over 1.5 million pounds of birdseed annually.

As you might imagine, I do not take lightly anything that would raise prices and potentially impact sales and profits. It is clear however, that something must be done to reverse the decline of our native songbirds.

The risk of further declines is real. It has been documented. And we cannot afford that risk.

Over the past month I've taken time from my business to come to Salem and visit with house members on this subject. I know there is concern for any new tax and how it would impact citizens. I can tell you that I have talked with customers who have called me with the very same concern. The truth is that when these customers are presented with the data on decline and how their tax dollars would be used, they support the tax. They too want to help reverse the decline that has been documented with science.

Please seriously consider sending this bill to the floor for a vote. Now is the time.

Thank you

Scott Lukens

MEASURE: HB 3374  
EXHIBIT: DD  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 6/8/2011 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: SCOTT LUKENS