



February 2, 2026

House Committee on Revenue

RE: HB 4134 -1 – SUPPORT

Chair Nathanson and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge” or “National Scenic Area”). Wildlife conservation is essential to Friends’ mission of protecting the National Scenic Area, and past Friends work has included advocacy efforts to protect imperiled wildlife species.

Friends supports HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, also known as 1.25% for Wildlife. This bill makes a modest increase in the state’s transient lodging tax (TLT) of 1.25 percentage points to provide key investments in wildlife programs, including Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan, invasive species response, and the wildlife stewardship program. In addition to wildlife programs, this bill would fund wildfire risk reduction and workforce development through the Oregon Conservation Corps.

Oregon’s native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them are key to what makes this state so special. Oregon’s thriving tourism and outdoor recreation industry, which brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending and amounts to 2.6% of the state’s GDP, relies on the state’s natural heritage and the wildlife species that live here. Using the TLT to fund this work is a logical choice, as it is reinvesting tourist dollars fueled by Oregon’s recreation industry into our natural resources, a significant draw for out-of-state tourists. Data from Oregon and numerous other states has shown that tourism volume continues to grow even with increases in the TLT.

HB 4134 provides a creative permanent funding stream for our state’s wildlife conservation programs. Having stable funding is essential to the resilience of these key programs in uncertain budgeting cycles, like we are seeing now. Oregon has a chance to step up as a leader during a time where the federal government is dismantling programs and policies that protect fish and wildlife.

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. This is a key opportunity to protect what makes Oregon so special.
Please support HB 4134 -1 this legislative session.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator