

Submitter:

Elizabeth Kohane

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing out of a deep care for the continued well-being of the Oregon living systems, and to support a completion of the the historic, bipartisan wildlife funding proposal, that the legislation has been engaged since 20205. While I live in Minnesota, I recognize how vital that such a proposal to preserve wildlife, could be for not only Oregon, but also as a blueprint for what could be possible for other states to embrace. Passing such an historic bipartisan wildlife funding proposal, could place Oregon at the forefront of the fight against the extinction crisis, priding mush needed resources to people on the front lines working to recover our most imperiled wildlife, especially including such species as frogs and salamanders, and including larger animal species as well.

I know from my own direct experience and learning, and out of growing concern for the rapid decline of frogs, salamanders and other amphibians and reptiles across just not your state, but my state as well. I know that frogs, salamanders and other amphibians are often overlooked, et they are among our most important ecological messengers. Their sensitivity to changes in water quality, land use, and climate means that when they struggle or disappear, it signals a broader breakdown in the systems that sustain all life-including our own. What is happening to them is not distant from human concerns; it is closely connected to the health of our water, soils, forests, and communities.

Oregon has long carried a legacy of environmental responsibility and respect for the natural world. at this moment, that legacy is being tested. Protecting wetlands, waterways, and intact habitats-and reducing the chemical and developmental pressures that harm them-is not simply about saving individual species. It is about safeguarding ecological balance, resilience, and the future well-being of generations who will inherit the consequences of today's decisions.

I respectfully urge you to support a bipartisan support of HB 4134 Wildlife Protection Bill, that places ecological health at the center of land-use planning, development, and environmental regulation, including the training and support of environmental professionals. Acting now can help prevent irreversible loss and affirm Oregon's role as a steward of life, not just a manager of resources.

Thank you for the bipartisan responsibility you carry and for considering the long vies to your service to your state.

With gratitude and respect,
Elizabeth Kohane, MA