

Submitter: Ellen Silva
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Ellen Silva. I moved to Oregon a bit over 6 years ago, coming from Minnesota where we had a strong legacy of protecting wild lands and wildlife. We passed a long-term funding mechanism, a 3/8% income tax to support cleaner water, healthier habitat, better parks and trails, and sustain our arts and cultural heritage. The impact of that steady flow of dollars has been tremendous, with parks improved, habitat in wilderness areas protected, and the rich natural heritage of MN (which supports so much fun and business) has been protected for the next generations. It was clear that having the assurance of continued funding increased the efficiency of the work to protect and improve those lands. I volunteered for several organizations who worked on restoration or public education and it was clear that we got so much more done when we didn't have to worry each year if there would be resources to move projects forward.

Now that I'm in Oregon, I'm seeing organizations spend far too much money fund-raising to resource projects that benefit all of the public. HB4134 gives Oregon a chance to show they care as much about their wildlife as Minnesota did and to reap the public benefits of steady funding. I have observed that Oregonians share a culture of love of the land and the wildlife on it with Minnesotans. I hope Oregon can provide similar long-term sustained funding for protecting these invaluable assets. HB 4134 is one possible way to do that.

Please vote to provide sustained funding of the work that benefits us all – hunters and fishers, hikers and campers, visitors to our state and especially to all Oregonian residents.

Respectfully,
Ellen Silva
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