

February 2, 2026

Dear Chair Nathanson and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to provide much-needed, dedicated funding for the recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I moved to Oregon in 2019 because of the natural beauty and wildlife. From our rivers and forests to the species that depend on them, our natural heritage shapes our identity and fuels our deep connection to the outdoors. Like many Oregonians, I value these resources not only for what they offer us today, but for what they represent for future generations. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats are protected and restored so they can endure.

A clear majority of Oregonians support securing long-term, dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable species and ecosystems. HB 4134 represents a thoughtful and forward-looking solution. By investing in conservation, this bill also strengthens Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy.

At a time when federal protections and funding for conservation are being reduced if not completely eliminated, this legislation gives Oregon the opportunity to lead by example and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our natural heritage.

This is a rare opportunity to make a lasting investment in Oregon's biodiversity and natural legacy. I respectfully urge you to support and pass HB 4134 with the -1 amendment this legislative session.

Sincerely,
Kathy Story