

Submitter:

Dee Bar

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am writing to urge the Committee to support HB 4134.

Oregon's wildlife and the habitats they depend on are facing a crisis. Nearly 300 species are at elevated risk of extinction and multiple key habitats are in decline. Without sustainable, long-term funding, these species, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely upon could be lost forever.

The 1.25% for Wildlife proposal would:

Generate reliable, dedicated funding for implementation of Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and related recovery efforts.

Support habitat restoration, species recovery, and community stewardship programs both on the coast and statewide.

Still leave Oregon with one of the lowest statewide tourism taxes in the country, even after the increase.

This funding mechanism is fair and balanced. The majority of the cost will be borne by out-of-state visitors who enjoy Oregon's world-class outdoor experiences - from salmon fishing and whale watching to birding and hiking.

This is not only an environmental imperative; it is also an investment in rural economies. By safeguarding the natural heritage that draws people to live in and visit Oregon, we strengthen local communities statewide.

A modest increase in the lodging tax – paid mostly by those from out of state – is a practical, responsible way to ensure Oregon's investment in its natural resources meets the scale of today's challenges, and those ahead.

Please make passage of HB 4134 (1.25% for Wildlife) a priority for passage in the 2026 session.