

Submitter: Vince Ready

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I live in Hood River and I'm a frequent visitor to Oregon's wild and scenic areas, and I value the protection of wildlife.

I support the proposal to increase the state lodging tax to help ensure the state's most fish, wildlife and habitats are protected.

Unspoiled landscapes, and the wildlife species that benefit from such protection are important to Oregon's identity and the quality of life of its residents. Oregonians value wildlife and want to see it thrive. Many of us are proud of Oregon's natural heritage and care deeply about protecting it for future generations.

HB 4134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending.

We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.

Thank you for taking steps to protect wildlife and habitats so that Oregon remains the special place that so many of us cherish and value.