

February 2, 2026

Re: **HB 4134** – 1.25% for Wildlife

Dear Chair Nathanson and Vice-chairs Reschke and Walters:

I support HB 4134.

It's hard to balance a budget. I know from 40 years in federal, state, regional, and local government, including elected office.

Nor do I envy the **challenges facing Oregon businesses** as they try to recover from the Covid pandemic.

Here's why **I support HB 4134**: the right balance between budget, business, rural needs and wildlife conservation:

- I empathize with rural Oregonians. My grandfather was 6 years old when his parents **arrived in The Dalles in 1880** and later established a homestead in Sherman County near Grass Valley.
- Increasing the lodging tax to 2.75% **adds \$3.13 to the cost of a \$250 per night room.**
- Ranchers need better **compensation for cattle lost to wolf depredation.** Last session's SB 777 is an unfunded mandate. Without HB 4134, it won't be funded.
- Better funding for wolf compensation means **better funding for wolf deterrence.**

Respectfully,

Pete Sandrock
Capt. USNR-Ret
Vietnam Veteran
Benton Co. DA (1977-1999)