

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4134

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

The undersigned sporting organizations write in strong support of HB 4134, the “1.25 percent for Wildlife” proposal.

For more than a century, hunters and anglers and trappers have served as the backbone of wildlife conservation in Oregon and across North America. Through licenses, tags, and excise taxes, we voluntarily fund the majority of fish and wildlife management under the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the most successful and egalitarian system of wildlife stewardship in the world.

However, the challenges facing wildlife today extend beyond what this funding model alone can address. Habitat fragmentation, invasive species, wildlife disease, wildfire, and increased public use all demand stable, diversified funding if Oregon is to manage wildlife proactively rather than reactively.

HB 4134 reflects years of collaboration among sportsmen, landowners, conservation organizations, businesses, and community leaders. It creates a fair funding mechanism that asks visitors who enjoy Oregon’s outdoor resources to help reinvest in them, while keeping Oregon’s lodging tax among the lowest in the nation.

Importantly for the sporting community, HB 4134 directs funding toward priorities we care deeply about, including habitat connectivity, anti-poaching enforcement, invasive species control, wildlife stewardship, and wolf depredation compensation. It also strengthens Oregon’s ability to meet non-federal match requirements needed to leverage federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson allocations that would otherwise go unused.

HB 4134 does not diminish our role as conservation leaders. Instead, it ensures our investment is matched by others who benefit from Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and the wild and working lands they depend upon.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB 4134 and deliver a durable wildlife funding solution that reflects Oregon values and shared responsibility.

Sincerely,

Tristan Henry, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Amy Patrick, Oregon Hunters Association

Devin O’Dea, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Marie Neumiller, Congressional Sportsmens Foundation

James Fraser, Trout Unlimited

Christopher Hoon, Delta Waterfowl

James Adkins, Northwest Steelheaders

Cristina Jones, Fur Takers of America

Craig L. Foster, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation