

Submitter:

Madeline Warner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134, the 1.25% for Wildlife Bill, and I urge members of the House Revenue Committee to vote yes.

Wildlife is not a “nice to have” in Oregon — it is foundational to what makes our state great. Healthy wildlife populations and intact habitats are essential to a functioning ecosystem, and without them, many of the things we value most about where we live are at risk. Clean water, clean air, natural parks, and preserved open spaces don’t exist in isolation. They depend on thriving ecosystems and the species that sustain them.

These natural assets are part of why I choose to live here, pay taxes here, and invest in my community. They are also a major driver of tourism and our outdoor economy, supporting local businesses and communities across the state. Protecting wildlife is not only an environmental responsibility — it is an economic and quality-of-life issue for all Oregonians.

HB 4134 represents a bold, practical, and long-overdue solution. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife does not receive any dedicated state funding for the recovery and conservation of at-risk species and habitats. A modest 1.25% increase to the statewide lodging tax would create a stable, sustainable funding source — largely paid by visitors — to address this critical gap.

If passed, this legislation would provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make meaningful progress by:

Providing approximately \$25 million annually to protect and restore Oregon’s most imperiled species and habitats

Creating a wildlife stewardship program that educates the public, helps resolve human-wildlife conflicts, and supports wildlife rehabilitation centers working on the front lines

Strengthening anti-poaching efforts and invasive species management statewide

Supporting the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

Contributing to wildfire prevention efforts that protect both ecosystems and communities

This bill came very close to passing in the last legislative session, advancing through the House and nearly through the Senate before falling victim to end-of-session political tactics. The need has not gone away — if anything, it has become more urgent. HB 4134 is smart, proactive policy that reflects Oregon's values and long-term interests.

I respectfully ask you to support HB 4134 and help ensure that Oregon's wildlife, habitats, and natural heritage are protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.