



Oregon Farmer, Rancher and Landowner Organizations Support HB 4134 – “1.25% for Wildlife”

These organizations represent ranching, farming, and working lands communities who live and work where wolves and other wildlife are part of the landscape. Living and working with wildlife is a daily reality for rural Oregonians. We value healthy ecosystems, and living with wolves comes with real and ongoing costs for the families and operations most directly affected.

HB 4134 is critical because it provides a stable, long-term funding mechanism to support communities living with wolves and fulfills commitments the state has already made through the passage of SB 777 in 2025. When livestock, horses, or working dogs are lost to wolf depredation, the impacts extend far beyond market value. These losses bring financial strain, operational disruption, and ongoing uncertainty for family ranches operating on thin margins.

Oregon took an important step forward by passing SB 777 to strengthen wolf compensation programs. However, without a reliable funding source, those commitments remain incomplete. Compensation must be paired with consistent access to conflict reduction tools and resources that help prevent losses, locate depredation events, and avoid escalating conflicts—tools that only work when funding is dependable over time.

HB 4134 also supports broader priorities essential to rural Oregon, including wildlife connectivity, invasive species management, wildfire risk reduction, and rural workforce development. Healthy landscapes, working lands, and strong rural communities are inseparable.

By modestly increasing the transient lodging tax and dedicating those funds to conservation, wildfire prevention, and wolf depredation compensation and conflict reduction, HB 4134 helps ensure the costs of conservation are more equitably shared. The public benefits of wildlife conservation should not come at the expense of rural communities.

We urge legislators to support HB 4134 and provide durable, meaningful support for rural Oregon. Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Contacts:

Oregon Sheep Growers – Richard Koesan – (503) 871-3178
Oregon Farm Bureau – Lauren Kuenzi – (503) 559-5277
Oregon Cattlemen’s Association – Tammy Dennee – (541) 980-6887
Western Landowners Alliance – Ellie Gage – (541) 419-7411