

Submitter: John Savage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I urge your support for HB 4134 because it will serve not only a healthy environment but a healthy economy as well. By providing stable, predictable funding for habitat and species conservation and restoration, HB 4134 supports vulnerable fish and wildlife while also sustaining rural communities, outdoor recreation, and the places Oregonians depend on for their livelihoods.

Today, more than 300 native Oregon species are vulnerable and need our help now. We have been woefully underfunding the protection and restoration of these species for years. The result is continued decline in native species and habitats to the detriment of our environment and the Oregon communities that rely on a thriving, healthy environment.

Passage of this bill is a smart, proactive approach to fish and wildlife conservation. Recovering species after they're listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act is expensive and often creates conflict. HB 4134 can help us avoid those costs and conflicts by acting early.

Finally, this bill provides stable funding for wildlife conservation without raising undue costs on Oregonians or tourists. Funding it through the transient lodging tax means visitors help pay to protect the landscapes and wildlife they come here to enjoy. Our lodging tax will remain one of the lowest in the country.

I urge your support HB 4134.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and thank you for your service.