

Submitter:

Oakley Taylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

We are currently canvassing and regenerating interest in presenting this bill again for the February session. It nearly passed last time but due to last minute technicalities, it failed. There is abundant community, business, agency, and organizational support for the bill. Because of the current Federal administration, many state grants have been denied, leaving us stumbling for funding; death by a thousand cuts.

Oregon is unique in many ways; from sea life to the woodland creatures. Part of what draws people here is the magnificence of the wilderness. But protecting it comes at a price. With no sales tax, the nominal fee of 1.25% for Wildlife is well worth being in the presence of such grandeur.

Civilization is a dangerous place where animals are at the whim of people and bad circumstances. Loss of habitat, collisions with vehicles, poisoning and traps can be lethal. In 2025 alone, our local animal hospital (Think Wild) has taken in 128 species, totaling more than 887 patients. The number only grows. Countless animals would have died otherwise but because of valuable medical care, the vast majority of animals survive to be reintroduced back into the wild. This funding package would support rehabilitation in Oregon, among other critical wildlife services.

Our wildlife and their habitats need all the help they can get. Extinction is forever and there are no second chances.