

Chair Nancy Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee.

My name is Twila Jacobsen, and I live in Eugene. I write here in favor of HB 4134 - “1.25% for Wildlife” - secures dedicated, sustainable funding for Oregon’s imperiled wildlife, lands and waters, by increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.75% (an increase of 1.25%). I am a member of the Climate Justice Committee of SEIU503 I support the opportunities for workers as well. I am speaking for myself today.

There are many reasons to invest in our economy by supporting this bill. As an Oregon resident it is my privilege to live in this beautiful state and support the local economies that rely on and profit from the beauty of our natural resources and the wildlife that occupies this place amongst us. Regrettably, we have experienced extreme weather conditions that threaten all that live here. The wildfire mitigation work protects the properties and communities where we live. This makes us safer in the face of bigger and hotter fires and smoke filled skies. Improving native vegetation makes Oregon more resilient in the face of climate change.

This historic legislation would provide badly needed resources to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by increasing the state lodging tax by 1.25% – while keeping Oregon’s state lodging tax among the very lowest in the nation. These funds will go to agencies such as ODFW, DOJ, and ODAg. It also provides investment for workforce development by including stable funding for the Oregon Conservation Corps, an investment that can keep young people in rural communities with needed opportunities.

Without sufficient and consistent funding from the state, Oregon’s most vulnerable species, habitats and communities remain at risk. This threatens Oregon’s natural legacy, its economy and the thousands of Oregonians whose livelihoods depend on the outdoor recreation industry. Not addressing this issue also goes against Oregonians’ expectations, as, per a 2025 poll, 71% of Oregonians responded that they believe protecting the biodiversity of Oregon should be a priority of state and national politicians.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my support for this bill.