

Submitter:

Spencer McMaster

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, which would modestly increase the state lodging tax to establish reliable funding for the restoration of Oregon's most at-risk fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's natural spaces are central to who we are as a state. Our rivers, forests, coastlines, and wildlife are not just beautiful places to visit. They shape our communities, support our economy, and provide countless opportunities for recreation and connection. As an Oregon native who spends a great deal of time outdoors, I see firsthand how deeply people care about protecting these landscapes. Preserving them is an investment in both our quality of life today and the legacy we leave to future generations.

I also regularly volunteer with Trail Keepers of Oregon, where I have seen the positive impact that well-supported restoration and stewardship projects can have on the environment. From improved trail conditions to healthier surrounding habitats, these efforts make a real difference on the ground. Government investment plays a critical role in making this work possible, and HB 4134 would help expand the reach of these kinds of effective, community-based projects.

Oregonians consistently express strong support for dedicated, long-term funding for conservation. HB 4134 offers a practical path forward. By directing resources toward habitat restoration and species recovery, this bill also reinforces the outdoor recreation and tourism economy that so many communities rely on. Visitors come to Oregon because of our natural beauty. Safeguarding these resources helps sustain local jobs and businesses while strengthening the statewide economy.

Healthy ecosystems and a thriving tourism industry go hand in hand. This legislation recognizes that connection. At a time when federal conservation funding is increasingly uncertain, HB 4134 provides Oregon with an opportunity to step up and take responsibility for protecting what makes this state special.

I respectfully urge you to advance HB 4134 with the -1 amendment. This bill represents a meaningful commitment to Oregon's biodiversity and long-term environmental health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Spencer McMaster