

Submitter: Kristi LaHaye

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

As an Oregon resident, I urge you to support HB 4134 (1.25% for Wildlife) to help conserve Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife. Oregon's wildlife is one of our greatest assets, supporting outdoor recreation, tourism, and quality of life across the state. This bill provides practical, proven solutions that reduce conflicts and promote coexistence, benefiting communities and wildlife alike.

This amendment increases the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. This minimal increase still leaves OR in one of the lowest states in the nation for tourism.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.