

Submitter:

David I. Berg

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Please vote YES for HB 4134: "1% for Wildlife."

Funds raised with this fee go directly to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to support non-game wildlife and habitat conservation. They assure a sustainable funding stream in the face of uncertain federal funds and the absence of otherwise uncertain funding from the State. This year's bill adds 1/4% for wildlife stewardship and rehabilitation programs, including wolf depredation compensation, even though wolf predation is among the least causes of livestock loss.

Biological diversity - both floral and faunal – knows no geopolitical bounds nor ecological/economic bounds. Wildlife species – and their habitats – abound in Oregon. They transcend whatever artificial bounds we attempt to place upon them. Local, national, and international tourists visit throughout every year to enjoy our oceans, forests, valleys, mountains, watersheds, meadows, and deserts. Thus, in addition to the intrinsic ecological value of biodiversity, the economic value of our wildlife exceeds the investment to sustain it.

My Hospitality opponents would have you believe that for less than the price of a cup of coffee a day, tourists will be deterred from visiting Oregon. That is far from the truth, however, as such tourists will, instead, welcome the far-sighted steps Oregon has taken to preserve what they flock here to enjoy. From whale watchers to bird watchers, hunters to fishers, wildlife opportunities abound – as will their economic benefits. Let's make sure they stay that way.

Please vote YES on HB 4134.