



House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 3, 2026

RE: Support for HB 4134

Chair Nancy Nathanson and members of the Committee,

On behalf of WildEarth Guardians and our tens of thousands of members and supporters, I am writing in support of HB 4134 as a long-term, stable funding source to support at-risk wildlife species in Oregon.

WildEarth Guardians believes that state wildlife policies should be founded in science and 21st century ethics. Native species should be treated as neighbors, companions, collaborators, and relatives with whom we share the landscape, not others to be exploited, tortured, and persecuted. With this in mind, state wildlife agencies should focus on restoring and protecting native species – especially ecosystem engineers. However, for too long, agencies like the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have lacked the funding and focus to ensure that at-risk species are given adequate attention.

HB 4134 fills a critical funding gap that will help ODFW more comprehensively tackle the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) that guides the conservation of over 300 species of concern and the habitat on which they rely.

Oregon and the broader western United States are tourism destinations precisely because of our amazing landscapes and the native species that call them home. Adding a small increase to the state's transient lodging tax to help sustain the species and landscapes that make Oregon unique is a common sense solution to a pressing problem. This 1.25% increase will still keep Oregon with the third lowest transient lodging tax in the nation - which is why a diverse array of bipartisan supporters is backing this legislation.

We urge the committee to vote yes on HB 4134 and move this bill quickly through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
Sean Stevens
Executive Director