



February 3, 2026

To: Chair Nathanson and House Committee on Revenue

RE: Support for HB 4143

On behalf of East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), I am writing in strong support of HB 4143, "1.25% for Wildlife."

EMSWCD is a local government organization that serves the people, lands and waters of East Multnomah County. Our mission is to help people care for land and water. HB 4143 is an opportunity to invest in a broad set of programs and community efforts that conserve and restore Oregon's vulnerable species and their habitats. By raising the state transient lodging tax by a modest 1.25%, Oregon can finally make a meaningful investment in habitat protection, landscape resiliency, community engagement and address invasive species. HB 4143 provides a comprehensive approach to protecting our non-game species by increasing education and action and providing a pathway for implementing Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

EMSWCD's urban and rural programs focus on the restoration and connectivity of habitat in our local watersheds. We work with willing landowners to address invasive weeds and establish native plants and trees that cool our rivers and streams. This voluntary strategy is at the core of Oregon's approach to supporting fish and wildlife yet it has been underfunded within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. HB 4143 will build on and strengthen the work we do locally by powering up statewide conservation programs.

HB 4145 has been thoroughly and thoughtfully vetted with interest groups in Oregon. It is a meaningful way to invest in the natural resources that define our state by having tourists and travelers to give back through a minimal tax. We encourage you to vote yes in support of "1.25% for wildlife."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the importance of this new funding source for protecting and enhancing habitat for our non-game species.

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