

Submitter:

Tyler James

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Subject: Support for HB 4134 - A Veteran's Perspective on Wildlife Conservation

To the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Tyler, and I am writing as a veteran, Oregon resident, and advocate for the conservation of our state's natural resources. I strongly support HB 4134 and urge you to pass this critical legislation.

As someone who served in the military to protect our nation's values and future, I understand the importance of stewardship and long-term planning. Oregon's wildlife and wild spaces are part of what makes this state worth protecting. They represent resilience, biodiversity, and the kind of natural heritage we should be passing down to future generations - not allowing to deteriorate on our watch.

Currently, Oregon's Wildlife Action Plan has no dedicated state funding. This is unacceptable given the escalating threats wildlife face from habitat loss, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict. HB 4134's modest 1.25% lodging tax increase would finally provide stable funding for Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Conservation Corps to implement essential wildlife protection programs.

This funding would support:

Wildlife connectivity and safe passage corridors

Anti-poaching enforcement

The wolf compensation program to reduce rancher-wildlife conflicts

Workforce development and wildfire risk reduction

With federal funding for conservation increasingly uncertain, Oregon needs to take responsibility for protecting its own natural assets. A dedicated revenue stream ensures we can plan effectively rather than scrambling year to year.

I have seen firsthand what happens when we fail to invest in the systems that sustain us. This bill is a small but essential step toward ensuring Oregon's wildlife - and the ecosystems we all depend on - remain intact for those who come after us.

Please support HB 4134.