

Friends of the Greensprings (FOG)  
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February 3, 2026

RE: HB 4134: Increases the state transient lodging tax

Dear House Committee on Revenue Members:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Greensprings (FOG) to urge your support of HB 4132. We heartily support this legislation, which would provide much-needed vital funding to help conserve and restore our state's 300-plus vulnerable species and their habitats.

We believe healthy ecosystems and biodiversity are integral to Oregonians' livelihoods, quality of life and recreation. Our community is located within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which was designated for its outstanding biodiversity. The Monument is a popular destination for hiking, birding, hunting, and other types of outdoor recreation. We who are lucky enough to live here greatly value the wild creatures with whom we share this land. Unfortunately, climate change and habitat degradation threaten many of these, from vulnerable species like the Mardon skipper to beavers, which were once here in abundance but have declined precipitously.

After decades of underinvestment, HB 4134 will provide badly needed resources to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), a blueprint for restoring habitat for some 320 species of greatest conservation need—creatures which face extinction because of habitat loss, pollution, and invasive species.

Wildfire and resiliency to wildfire are also important issues to our community. Residents here have invested in projects to reduce wildfire risk on their private properties, but we remain concerned about public lands with built-up fuel loads and overgrown "pine plantations"—the legacy of past logging practices and wildfire suppression. Restoring these habitats would both benefit native wildlife, birds, and insects while reducing the risk of catastrophic fire. HB 4134 would ensure stable funding and investment in wildfire resilience through SWAP, which specifically addresses wildfire risk reduction through habitat management and restoration.

In addition to adequately funding SWAP, HB 4134 dedicates resources to anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and invasive species

prevention. It also includes stable funding for Oregon's wolf management compensation and proactive trust fund, which aims to improve coexistence and outcomes for both farmers/ranchers and wolves. Finally, it will support wildfire risk reduction and natural resource workforce development, increasing resilience for both wildlife and communities across the state. All of this funding will be made possible by increasing the state lodging tax by 1.25%. Even with this modest increase, Oregon's lodging tax would still be among the lowest in the nation.

All of these programs align with the spirit of our mission, which is "to celebrate and encourage, for present and future generations, a spirit of care and responsibility for the aesthetic, ecological, and human legacy of the Greensprings." Investing in Oregon's wildlife is an investment in our state's future, ecological health and economic thriving.

Sincerely,

Juliet Grable

Conservation Committee  
Friends of the Greensprings (FOG)