

Submitter: Simon Erickson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and committee members, I support 1.25% for Wildlife because now more than ever, our wildlife is in desperate need of support. I am still a high school student. In the short time I've been alive, I've already seen years of environmental neglect. From a young age, I have always been more connected to animals and wildlife than I have been connected to my own kind. I learned to take care of the land and love and nurture our Oregon wildlife. As I grew up and learned about the environmental effects that the human population has put on biodiversity, I knew I had to step up and do something. These animals that the 1.25% for Wildlife bill will support are crucial for our ecosystems. Oregon fish, such as salmon, help nourish Oregon's bald eagles, bears, and orcas. They create healthy waterways and help nourish aquatic plants and fish. Mammals such as the American pika help maintain rich and healthy soil for flora and are critical food sources for predators such as weasels and birds of prey. Birds such as the tufted puffin help bring nutrients to coastal seashores and reflect the health of the marine ecosystem. If even one of these animal species goes into extinction, that can mean a collapse in animal populations as well as plant diversity, and even the long-term harm to human communities. It breaks my heart to wake up every day and see another news story about an ecosystem destroyed, along with the deaths of thousands of wildlife, or mass shootings of our beautiful and very necessary apex predators. So I urge you to please pass this bill, because giving funding to these endangered creatures will go a long way in protecting Oregon's ecosystems and wildlife.