

Submitter:

Paul Savelbergh

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing to urge your support for HB 4134, the “1.25% for Wildlife” bill—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure stable, long-term funding for Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and habitats while strengthening our outdoor recreation and tourism economy.

HB 4134 represents one of the most significant conservation investments Oregon has made in decades. By increasing the statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25 percentage points, the bill would responsibly fund critical conservation and stewardship programs while largely drawing revenue from visitors—approximately 65% of the tax is paid by out-of-state travelers, not Oregon residents.

Specifically, HB 4134 would provide stable funding for:

- Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), the state’s blueprint for conserving and restoring more than 300 vulnerable species and their habitats
- The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, expanding access to outdoor recreation and community-based conservation projects statewide
- ODFW’s Wildlife Connectivity Program, improving wildlife passage and addressing habitat fragmentation
- Anti-poaching enforcement, strengthening Department of Justice and State Police capacity to combat illegal wildlife crimes
- The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program, supporting coexistence and reducing conflict
- Invasive species detection and response, addressing long-standing gaps that threaten native ecosystems
- The Wildlife Stewardship Program, including support for wildlife rehabilitation facilities
- The Oregon Conservation Corps, investing in wildfire risk reduction, community resilience, and natural resources workforce development

Oregonians support HB 4134 because it:

- Invests directly in Oregon’s natural legacy that supports livelihoods, recreation, and quality of life
- Closes a long-standing funding gap with broad, bipartisan support from diverse stakeholders across the state
- Strengthens wildfire preparedness while building Oregon’s conservation workforce
- Reinvests in outdoor recreation—an \$8 billion industry that accounts for 2.6% of Oregon’s GDP

- Does not raise the cost of living for most Oregonians and does not change Oregon's ranking as having the third-lowest state lodging tax in the nation (increasing from 1.5% to 2.75%)

HB 4134 would create durable, resilient funding for programs that protect the fish, wildlife, and habitats that make Oregon special—now and for future generations.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 4134 and thank you for your leadership on behalf of Oregon's natural resources and communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Savelsbergh,
Wilsonville Oregon