

February 4th, 2026

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

I'm submitting testimony today urging you to give your full support to HB 4134-1, 1.25% for Wildlife, HB4134. **This bill 1.25% for Wildlife has broad support from all walks of life and has strong economic and business benefits for Oregon.**

I recognize as Chair and Members of the House Revenue Committee that you are all tasked with addressing and resolving all of Oregon's revenue issues. Thank you for your diligent service on this issue. **PLEASE NOTE THAT HB4134-1 will TAKE PRESSURE OFF General Funds by folding in quite a few programs that get General Funds support and also addresses agency "asks" that are never met by General Funds.**

Overall, this bill funds ODFW's State Wildlife Action Plan, a long-term conservation strategy for all of Oregon that has previously not had any dedicated funding. Oregon's wildlife and fisheries resources are valued & enjoyed by all Oregonians and is one of the reasons that people come to Oregon to visit, recreate and spend dollars here.

HB4134-1 is supported by a broad coalition of over 70 conservation, sportsmen, agricultural groups and by more than 40 businesses, both urban and rural.

HB4134-1 will also dedicate funding to:

- Oregon Conservation Corps, a new effort to develop a workforce working with homeowners to achieve defensible space and home hardening to **reduce wildfire risk to our communities**
- Invasive Species/Weed control – reducing risks wildlife, fisheries & wildfire, livestock
- Anti-poaching, a persistent problem for Oregon's wildlife
- Wolf Compensation – key strategy to support Oregon's wolf strategies
- Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund, which funds the intersection of wildlife, recreation and community projects throughout urban and rural Oregon.

The funding for HB4134-1 will be generated by a 1.25% increase in the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). An economic analysis in adjacent states has shown that *a nominal increase in the TLT DOES NOT* diminish tourism/visitation rates. At the end of the day, the costs to tourists and convention attendees to visit Oregon is less than in our neighboring states that have both a higher TLT and a sales tax. And overall, **an estimated 63% of the people paying this TLT are non-Oregonians.**

The business/economic argument being put forth **by the opposition is mostly a red herring**, as a 1.25% increase is **equivalent to a cup of coffee** each morning, though unfortunately the opposition present this as an affordability issue, which is scary but perhaps not true. Overall, ***Oregon is one of the least expensive states to visit. This is a Win-Win for Oregon!***

This is a once in a generation opportunity to pass 1.25% for Wildlife with bipartisan support. I ask and urge you to support HB4134-1 and help get this passed in the 2026 short session.

Please vote to make this happen.

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