Submitter:	Mandy Sparks
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB4134

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the statewide lodging tax by 1.25% to provide dedicated funding for Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon is home to extraordinary biodiversity, yet the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife currently receives no dedicated state funding for species recovery and habitat conservation. HB 4134 offers a smart, sustainable solution. A modest increase to the lodging tax would generate approximately $25 million annually to support at-risk species, restore habitats, and strengthen long-term conservation efforts statewide.

This investment is strongly supported by Oregonians and makes sense economically. Outdoor recreation and tourism support nearly 200,000 jobs and generate roughly $16 billion in consumer spending each year. Healthy fish and wildlife populations are not optional to that economy: they are foundational. Protecting these resources today ensures that local communities, small businesses, and future generations continue to benefit.

HB 4134 would deliver meaningful outcomes, including funding for species and habitats of greatest conservation need, bolstering anti-poaching and invasive species management, supporting wildfire prevention, expanding wildlife education and conflict-prevention programs, and strengthening wildlife rehabilitation centers that serve on the front lines of human–wildlife interactions.

At a time when federal funding for conservation is being reduced, Oregon has a rare opportunity to lead. This legislation allows our state to protect its natural heritage while setting a national example for proactive, responsible wildlife stewardship.

HB 4134 came very close to passing last session. I urge you to help finish this important work and vote yes on "1.25% for Wildlife." Oregon's wildlife, communities, and economy depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.