

Submitter:

Charlotte Campbell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I write to ask you to pass HB 4134, "1.25% for Wildlife" for three excellent reasons:

1. Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife does not have stable funding, especially for non-game species. At the same time Oregon lists over 300 types of animals as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need". It's to everyone's benefit to keep these creatures from endangered designation (18 already are).
2. The vast majority of funding for HB4134 will not come from Oregon residents. Even with this small increase to the lodging tax, Oregon's statewide lodging tax will still be among the lowest in the nation, while we have some of the most beautiful and unique places to visit and explore. This tax would directly benefit those places.
3. What's good for wildlife is good for people. Conserving and restoring habitat also conserves clean air, water, and a \$16 billion outdoor recreation industry. There really is a web of life, and as species go extinct our web begins to collapse. According to Audubon, 75% of bird species are in decline, with a drop in population of 29% across North America since 1970. I, myself, see fewer western bluebirds, Swainson's thrushes and brown pelicans.

Thank you for reading this. I hope you will agree that the benefits of passing HB4134 are great.