

January 24, 2026

This letter is in enthusiastic support of HB4134. As a resident of Oregon for the past 20 years, I love our state and our access to the outdoor life. We live in close proximity to wildlife throughout our state and I would venture to say, that most, if not all Oregonians enjoy being able to see deer on the hillsides and fields, hear owls hooting at dawn and watch birds nesting in our pine forests. Because the human footprint throughout the world is enormous, I believe that we do have a responsibility to share and care for the other beings on the planet. That needs to start at home, in our state. Oregon's tourism industry is fueled by people that visit our forests, rivers and shorelines because they love the outdoor activities and the wild. The bill, HB4134, also known as 1.25% for wildlife, will add that small tax on lodging to be used to further conservation successes. It is imperative that NOW we need a reliable new source of funding for the future. As it stands now, Oregon has the 3rd LOWEST lodging tax in the entirety of the 50 states, and adding that 1.25% leaves that standing intact! People that participate in the outdoors and even those that do not, see the value in supporting the health of our wildlife and wildlands. This is a win-win for Oregon, our citizens, our wildlife and our visitors. Certainly, hunters and fishermen and their licenses help with the species they are focused on, but that is a very small percentage of the whole of the wild ecosystem. Another example of what HB 4134 can do is give support to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts. This does more than allow individual animals a chance at recovery from what is more often than not human induced illness or trauma, but also serves the community. The community benefits by giving citizens an organization to embrace as a place to contact when an injured animal is found and in this is a powerful message for our children, validating that the animals around us matter... building care and respect for the wildlife that we share the planet with. This caring for animals translates well into kindness directed to conspecifics as well.

You know we desperately need more kindness in this world.

These are just a couple of examples of the benefits of HB4134. As a veterinarian, a biologist and a wildlife photographer I know there is so much we can do to improve peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence between humans and wildlife, bettering the quality of life, not only for the animals, but for humans as well. HB 4134 is a brilliant way to start!

We ask for your support for this very reasonable and impactful bill!

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