

Submitter: Sean Staub

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Sean Staub and I am a lifelong resident of Portland, Oregon. I'm submitting testimony in support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

As a state with wide natural spaces that are both nationally and globally renowned, it is crucial that Oregon treasure and protect those spaces and their wildlife. As you know, Oregon faces many threats to its natural beauty and bounty, including wildfires and droughts. As these threats increase, it is vitally important we invest in conservation and the protection of our state's biodiversity.

While Oregon's verdant forests and valleys west of the Cascades are probably its most famous and sought-out features, the state's high desert lands are tremendously important and valuable as well. Growing up in southeast Portland, I thought all of Oregon was like the Willamette Valley as a kid. Imagine my surprise when I learned that not only was that untrue, but that in fact a majority of the state's territory was made up of desert landscapes. About a decade ago, I began to regularly spend time in eastern Oregon, exploring and discovering its remote desert land. The Oregon high desert is a truly special environment, and I've come to place a tremendous amount of value in its landscape, flora, and fauna. Exploring and being exposed to the different parts of the dry half of our state have given me newfound love and pride in Oregon. I always recommend to those who haven't spent time on that side of the state to do so.

As we face complex and increasing environmental challenges, it's crucial we prioritize the natural world in Oregon, especially wildlife, which isn't particularly capable of advocating for itself. Given the lack of leadership at the federal level, it's even more important that Oregon invest in long-term conservation and protection of our state's ecosystems. I urge you to support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, and I appreciate you taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sean Staub