

Please accept these comments on behalf of Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance (formerly known as Lane County Audubon Society) in support of HB 4134. Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance members are dedicated to the conservation of our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

This historic legislation would provide badly needed resources to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) by increasing the state lodging tax by 1.25%. Even with this increase, Oregon's rate would still be among the very lowest in the nation. Oregon's incredible natural beauty draws visitors from all over and HB 4134 will provide much needed funding to conserve that natural beauty. The outdoor experiences that will keep visitors coming back support a recreation economy of \$15.6 billion and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

By funding SWAP, the bill will help to preserve and restore natural resources across the state and protect the more than 300 species of greatest conservation need. Additionally, House Bill 4134 dedicates resources to anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and invasive species prevention, wolf management compensation and proactive trust fund, and wildfire risk reduction. The solutions provided by passing the bill will be impactful.

Thank you for your consideration.
Debbie Schlenoff, Ph.D.
President
Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance

