

Submitter: Peter Kenagy
On Behalf Of: OISC legislative committee
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134
House Committee On Revenue.

Please support HB4134.

While no one likes increased taxes, the reality is that there is need for the dollars raised by this bill to address issues that we as a state have not figured out any other way to fund.

They are issues that the longer we wait to figure out how to address. The more harm will come to our environment and the more it will cost Oregonians in the future to deal with the ramifications of our lack of investment now.

To illustrate with one example.

It is widely known that particularly in regards to invasive species and their long term negative environmental and economic impacts that dollars spent now on early detection and rapid response will pay exponential dividends long into the future.

Take for instance freshwater mussels, Zebra, Quagga and now Golden Mussels. That are knocking on our doorstep. If or when they arrive and become established the long term economic and ecological consequences will be staggering. For wildlife, agriculture, municipal water systems, recreation and the operation of our dams and hydroelectric infrastructure.

Our best and likely the only way we currently have to address these challenges is to adequately fund the Oregon Invasive Species Council by finding a dedicated source of funding for their long term operation and emergency account. They are our first and only line of defense at this point.

While not perfectly aligned there is a significant nexus between the TLT and the threats that we face from invasive species. Travelers moving boats and cars across state lines and even in between areas of the state are one of if not the most significant vectors for the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Please give your whole hearted support to HB4134 and help it become reality.

Thank you for your service.

Peter Kenagy
OISC Legislative chair
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