

Submitter: Dan Jaffee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Members of the House Revenue Committee:

As an Oregonian deeply concerned about our state's environment, I am writing to urge you to support HB 4134, which would increase the lodging tax by 1.25% to fund wildlife protection in the 2026 legislative session. This modest and straightforward action will ensure that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has the necessary resources to safeguard and recover our state's most imperiled wildlife and fish species and their habitats.

I was shocked to learn that over 300 wildlife species in Oregon are now at risk. Between state funding shortfalls, attacks by the federal administration on the laws and programs safeguarding wildlife, and withdrawal of federal funds, current funding for conservation is woefully inadequate. The solution is 1.25% for Wildlife.

This bipartisan bill will generate long-term reliable funding for ODFW conservation efforts. It will raise the Oregon tourism tax from 1.5% to 2.75% (which will still be the third-lowest rate in the entire nation!) and will ensure long-term dedicated funding for our most imperiled wildlife and fish species, safeguard essential habitats, and improve ecosystem resiliency in the face of the twin biodiversity and climate crises.

Please support HB 4134 to provide 1.25% for Wildlife. Thank you for your consideration and concern.

Sincerely,

Dan Jaffee
N.E. Portland