



To: House Revenue Committee
Re: Support for HB 4134 -1

February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon Shores, a 501(c)(3) non profit dedicated to protecting coastal ecosystems and communities along Oregon's 362-mile coastline, I respectfully submit the following comments to the House Revenue Committee **in support of passing HB 4134 with the -1 amendment**. This legislation would raise the transient lodging tax by 1.25% to provide dedicated funding for the conservation of Oregon's at-risk wildlife and habitats.

Oregon's natural beauty and iconic wildlife are foundational to our state's identity and economy. They fuel a robust outdoor recreation and tourism sector that draws millions of visitors each year. Yet many of Oregon's species and habitats are facing increasing pressure from climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and other impacts. Without adequate investment in conservation and recovery, these challenges threaten not only wildlife but also the long-term resilience of Oregon's recreation and tourism economy.

Our State Wildlife Action Plan provides a roadmap for protecting and recovering the [321 identified at-risk species](#) across the state and the habitats they depend on. However, Oregon has consistently lacked the funding needed to implement this plan. HB 4134 -1 offers a meaningful opportunity to close that gap and help prevent further species and habitat decline, strengthening both our state's environmental and economic health.

This investment is particularly critical for Oregon's coast and ocean. Funds generated through this bill would support conservation and recovery efforts for more than 63 at-risk coastal and marine species, many of which are integral to Oregon's commercial and recreational fisheries and coastal tourism economy. Protecting and restoring marine and estuarine habitats strengthens fish populations, supports sustainable fisheries, and helps bolster the livelihoods of coastal communities that depend on a healthy ocean for jobs, food, and recreation.

Oregon's coastline is one of the most diverse and treasured landscapes in the nation. As Oregonians, it plays a central role in our shared sense of place. We cannot sustain a thriving tourism industry or grow Oregon's blue economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife and ecosystems. At a time when federal funding is increasingly uncertain, Oregon has an opportunity to lead by example and invest in the natural systems that underpin both our economy and our quality of life.

Oregon Coast For All

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The 1.25% for Wildlife initiative represents a modest investment with far-reaching benefits, enabling community engagement, educational programs, and science-driven conservation that ensures long-term stewardship and data-led management of our vital habitats. **We urge the committee to vote YES on HB 4134 -1 and protect Oregon's coast and our natural legacy.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hannah Epstein
Marine Conservation Manager
Oregon Shores

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