

Submitter:

Gayle Cerri

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Hello: My name is Gayle Cerri and I live in Bend, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I love Oregon. I grew up here and have a strong connection to the land, mountains, and waterways. I played in this environment as a child and now as an adult I relish every moment in Oregon's wilderness. And the reason I do is because of the native fish, wildlife, and diverse habitats—including the high desert and sagebrush steppe—which are central to what makes Oregon special and to why people choose to live, visit, and recreate here.

I value wildlife and want to see it thrive, as I care deeply about protecting it for future generations. I strongly support dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. HB 4134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending.

We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.