

Submitter:

Rebecca Crosby

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing to you to urge you to fully support 1.25% for Wildlife, HB4134 -1. Please do not be dissuaded by the 1.25% increase to the transient lodging tax (TLT). This small increase will most certainly not deter visitors from traveling to Oregon. Economic analysis of neighboring states demonstrates this increase will not reduce visitation. Even with the increase, Oregon will remain less expensive than nearby states that have higher TLTs and a sales tax. About 63% of the tax would be paid by non-Oregonians. Opposition claims about economic harm are largely a distraction—the increase amounts to roughly the cost of a daily cup of coffee and is unlikely to impact affordability. What will harm tourism in the state of Oregon is a degraded ecosystem that lacks biodiversity and a vibrant wildlife. Oregon's natural landscapes and biodiversity attract tourists from around the world and within our state. The TLT tax is meant to support tourism in Oregon. Dedicating funds from the TLT to support wildlife is an appropriate and logical funding source.

- This bill provides dedicated funding to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which is vital to Oregon.
- HB 4134 is supported by a broad coalition, with both Republican and Democratic legislators signed on.
- At a time of increasing polarization between parties, this bill represents an important opportunity for bipartisan collaboration.
- HB 4134 also dedicates funding to:
 - o Oregon Conservation Corps — a new effort to develop a workforce that works with homeowners to create defensible space and harden homes to reduce wildfire risk in communities.
 - o Invasive species and weed control — reducing risks to wildlife, fisheries, and wildfire spread.
 - o Anti-poaching efforts — addressing a persistent problem impacting Oregon's wildlife.
 - o Wolf compensation — a key strategy supporting Oregon's wolf management efforts.
 - o Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund
 - o HB4134 also has direct economic benefits to Oregon, creating an estimated 15-24 jobs for every \$1M spent on wildlife and habitat restoration, supporting Oregon's tourism industry.

The passage of HB4134 is of vital importance to the state of Oregon – it will enhance

economic resilience by protecting the natural habitats and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Crosby