

Submitter: Michael Howell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Howell, and I am an Oregon resident writing in support of this legislation to establish dedicated, long-term funding for wildlife conservation through a modest adjustment to the state transient lodging tax.

Oregon's high desert ecosystems and wildlife are uniquely valuable yet increasingly vulnerable. As someone who regularly explores remote public lands across our state, I have seen firsthand both the beauty of these landscapes and the growing pressures they face. Conservation cannot rely on inconsistent funding or short-term solutions, it requires stable, predictable investment to be effective.

This proposal represents a practical and balanced approach. Visitors are drawn to Oregon because of its natural landscapes and wildlife, and using a small portion of tourism-based revenue to sustain those resources is fiscally responsible and forward-thinking. Protecting habitat today reduces future costs, preserves biodiversity, and supports outdoor recreation and rural economies that depend on healthy ecosystems.

Strong conservation funding is not only an environmental issue; it is an investment in Oregon's long-term resilience, economy, and identity.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation and ensure Oregon's wildlife and habitats receive the sustained protection they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Michael Howell