

Oregon House Revenue Committee
February 4, 2026
Testimony from Sustainable Northwest

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Walters and Reschke and Members of the Committee

For the record, my name is Daniel Whelan and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Sustainable Northwest.

Sustainable Northwest strongly supports HB 4134 with the -1 amendment for a number of reasons that you have heard about today, but I want to briefly provide a perspective based on our work with the Wildfire 35 Funding Workgroup.

Last year, Governor Kotek tasked the legislature to find sustainable non-general fund dollars to pay for long term wildfire mitigation. **The Revenue Committee took on this challenge and worked on HB 3940 so that the entire legislature could support it. That bill has fundamentally changed how we approach wildfire now and into the future because of its innovative use of non-general funds.**

We face another similar crisis now. Over 320 species in Oregon are vulnerable to extinction unless we act, but our natural resource agencies are constrained by an incredibly challenging funding environment. The federal government has gutted medicaid, SNAP benefits, housing programs, mental health programs, cancer research and more – and YOU have the unenviable task of finding a way to make up for those lost funds.

HB 4134 will provide the baseline funding necessary for Oregon to leverage future federal funding, foundation grants, and more WITHOUT using general funds. This investment, 63 percent of which will be paid for by out-of-state visitors, will preserve wildlife and ecosystems that have made Oregon a tourist mecca for those who love the outdoors. Thank you.