

Submitter: Darian Rubow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Darian Rubow, 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 percent and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural legacy, and our native fish, wildlife, and landscapes like the high desert and sagebrush steppe are a huge part of why people choose to live, visit, and recreate here. Oregonians care deeply about wildlife and want to see it thrive, and a strong majority support dedicated funding to protect vulnerable species and habitats for future generations. HB 4134 provides long term, stable funding to conserve at risk ecosystems, maintain connected wildlife corridors, and support resilient landscapes across the state. Healthy fish and wildlife are also essential to Oregon's economy, as outdoor recreation and tourism depend on healthy lands and waters and contribute 2.6 percent of Oregon's GDP, support 192,000 jobs, and generate \$16 billion in consumer spending. We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems, and investing in conservation is foundational to long term economic resilience. As someone who works in natural resources and conservation, I see firsthand how meaningful investment can make a difference on the ground, especially as federal support declines. Passing HB 4134 is an opportunity for Oregon to step up as a leader, invest in its natural legacy, and ensure that the fish, wildlife, and habitats that define this state are protected for generations to come.