

Submitter:	Emily Ziegler
On Behalf Of:	Self
Committee:	House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB4134

Dear State Representatives,

My name is Emily Ziegler, and I have been an Oregon resident since 1989. I currently live in Central Oregon (Deschutes County). I am writing in strong support of HB 4134, with the -1 amendment, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to provide long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural legacy. Our native fish, wildlife, and diverse landscapes—including the high desert and sagebrush steppe—are central to what makes Oregon a place people choose to live, visit, and recreate. Oregonians value wildlife and care deeply about protecting it for future generations, and a strong majority support dedicated funding for conservation.

HB 4134 would provide sustainable, long-term funding to recover at-risk species and habitats, protect connected wildlife corridors, and support resilient ecosystems statewide. These investments are essential to maintaining biodiversity and reducing future risks such as wildfire and habitat loss.

Healthy ecosystems are also critical to Oregon's economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism depend on healthy lands and waters, contributing 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supporting 192,000 jobs, and generating \$16 billion in consumer spending.

Conservation is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it.

As federal support for wildlife and habitat protection declines, Oregon has a responsibility to lead. HB 4134 gives our state the opportunity to invest in its natural heritage and set a national example for proactive conservation.

I have long admired Oregon's commitment to protecting its land and wildlife. It is essential that we act now to ensure these resources are preserved for years to come. Once protections are weakened, there is no easy path back. Oregon's unique landscapes and wildlife deserve lasting safeguards for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and leadership. I urge you to support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

Emily Ziegler

Central Oregon (Deschutes County)