

Submitter: Levi Fredrikson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Levi Fredrikson, and I live here in Oregon. 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 dedicated funding to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's identity is inseparable from its natural legacy. Our native fish and wildlife, along with the extraordinary diversity of habitats across the state—from coastal waters and old-growth forests to the high desert and sagebrush steppe—are central to what makes Oregon special. These landscapes shape our sense of place and are a major reason people choose to live, visit, and recreate here.

Oregonians value wildlife and want to see it thrive. Many of us take great pride in Oregon's natural heritage and believe we have a responsibility to protect it for future generations. Polling consistently shows that a strong majority of Oregonians support dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. HB 4134 reflects these shared values and turns them into meaningful, lasting action.

This bill would provide long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats. It would support conservation of sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that sustain biodiversity across the state. Stable funding is essential to move beyond short-term fixes and toward durable, science-based recovery efforts.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are also essential to Oregon's economy. Our outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on clean water, healthy lands, and abundant wildlife. Outdoor recreation contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Investing in conservation is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it and supports long-term resilience for local communities.

State leadership is especially important right now. As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has both an opportunity and a responsibility to step forward. By passing HB 4134, Oregon can become a national leader in proactive conservation, reducing wildfire risk, supporting wildlife stewardship, and sustaining healthy ecosystems.

My support for this bill is also personal. Spending time outdoors has shaped my

appreciation for Oregon and reinforced how much these places matter—not just ecologically, but culturally and economically. I want future generations to inherit an Oregon where wildlife thrives and natural landscapes remain a defining part of who we are.

I strongly urge you to support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.