

Submitter:

Marc Liverman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Marc Liverman. I am a private citizen and long-term resident of the Willamette River Basin who enjoys Oregon's waterways and wildlands in many ways, including fish and wildlife viewing, and for many other aesthetic, cultural, recreational, and spiritual experiences. I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Our native fish, wildlife, and their diverse habitats, including the high desert and sagebrush steppe, are central to what makes Oregon special, and are why I choose to live and recreate here. Like most Oregonians, I value wildlife and want to see it thrive now and for future generations. A strong majority of Oregonians support dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. HB 4134 would provide long-term, dedicated funding for that conservation purpose by securing sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are also essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy 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 in Oregon without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality, it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

State leadership is especially important right now. As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has an opportunity and a responsibility to step forward and invest in its natural legacy.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.

Thank you for your interest in protecting our native fish, wildlife, and their habitats in Oregon, and for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Marc Liverman