



February 25, 2026

To Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Re: HB 4134

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by providing technical services and supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers, and with federal, state and nonprofit partners.

OACD strongly supports HB4134 with -1 Amendment, to provide long-term, dedicated funding for preservation and restoration of Oregon's fish and wildlife habitats and reduce wildfire risk on our landscape. Outdoor recreation, and enjoyment of Oregon's vast and diverse fish and wildlife, and their habitats, draws millions of visitors to our state each year. A 2023 analysis revealed that Oregon's outdoor recreation industry accounted for 2.6% of the state's GDP, higher than the national average. Additionally, data from 2022 shows that Oregon's outdoor economy contributes to \$16 billion in consumer spending and supports 192,000 jobs. Sadly, many of Oregon's species and habitats face increasing challenges, putting their future at risk and threatening Oregon's tourism and recreation economy.

Without sufficient and consistent funding from the state, Oregon's most vulnerable species, habitats and communities remain at risk. This threatens Oregon's natural legacy, its economy and the thousands of Oregonians whose livelihoods depend on both the outdoor recreation industry and our natural resources.

This modest increase to Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide a steady, sustainable source of funds to help recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity – all while making Oregon a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Andrea Kreiner", written over a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

Andrea Kreiner
Executive Director