

Submitter: Jillian LaForet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Committee Members, HB 4134 would be a monumental win for Oregon's wildlife and wild lands. This bill represents a minute cost (typically less than a cup of coffee!) to those lodging in Oregon. Whether from out of state or local, MOST—including myself and everyone I hold dear—would be honored to contribute to keeping Oregon's wildlife as vibrant and healthy as possible. I have raised my children in Oregon's forests. These forests and wild lands are where we feel the happiest and the safest. The health of the land depends on the health of the wildlife and vice versa. In turn, WE TOO rely on the health of nature around us, both wild and urban. It is our duty and pride to care for our natural world properly. When development and construction remove forest land around our home and favorite wild places, I am devastated in the knowledge that wildlife suffers greatly. This bill would provide support that is desperately needed for the wildlife that we are impacting negatively with reckless development. Developers financially benefit with rarely a thought to what they are harming. I am unwilling to devastate this land further for the sake of economic growth (to line the pockets of the typically already wealthy) when our whole state economy already benefits from tourism. Tourists come to Oregon to see the wealth of wildlife, flora, and natural beauty that we are all so enamored by. With such bipartisan support from diverse backgrounds, this bill helps human beings thrive across the board—many whose livelihoods depend on the wellness and proper management of wildlife and wild lands. The benefits of this bill remarkably outweigh the costs. I would be honored to participate in my duty to the wild with my in-state travels. Thank you and be well. Jillian LaForet.