

Submitter: Nikki Dennis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Hello Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

As an Oregon resident, I urge you to please support the 1.25% for Wildlife bill (HB 4134) to help conserve Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife. This bill is of great importance to me, to the overwhelming majority of Oregonians who value both biodiversity and recreation, and to the economic health of this state. Additionally, it is a necessary and completely reasonable ask of those visiting one of our beautiful areas. It ensures those who come here are contributing to the spaces and experiences they are seeking and are helping to protect them for future generations – ours and theirs.

There are substantial and targeted attacks on wildlife and natural spaces occurring at this time nationally and right here in Oregon. It is up to us and the state we all call home to have a dedicated funding source if we are to hold onto both what we value and what brings enormous revenue to this state. In addition to conservation and habitat restoration, it provides for anti-poaching enforcement, coexistence solutions, and wildfire risk management. This is an insignificant lodging tax in terms of cost to our visitors that I do not believe will deter business, but rather ensures business continues for all of Oregon with this revenue-generating remedy.

To me, there is nowhere else that can hold a candle to the biodiversity and stunning landscapes of Oregon. It is why we travel to experience the wonder of the tidepools at Haystack Rock, visit the beach in Lincoln City and gaze at the shorebirds while hoping to find a glass float, wonder in amazement at the biodiversity of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, enjoy when we catch a glimpse of a river otter in the Willamette, whale watch at Depot Bay, interact with the squirrels at Crater Lake, hike and stop to listen to the sounds of the different forests, keep a lookout so we can spot a herd of deer wandering through Astoria, and so on and so on. It is these experiences that bring us peace and renew our spirits when we interact with nature – experiences we all need. There is so much left for me to explore and discover in Oregon and I myself would be honored to pay that very small price when traveling for these experiences. It is what comes with good stewardship of what has been entrusted to all of us.

Please support HB 4134. Our imperiled wildlife and all the habitats and spaces we all need and want to see supported are depending on us. It is up to us as a state to take action right now when it is crucially needed.

Thank you.