

Submitter: Chris Dodge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I was born and raised in Oregon and I am writing to share my strong support for HB 4134 which would finally create a revenue stream to help restore and protect Oregon's wildlife and habitats.

This proposal reflects a value that Oregonians share, no matter what side of the fence we are on regarding other issues -- we all love and appreciate the incredible nature found in this state which attracts a huge number of visitors because of its natural beauty. The funding from passing this bill would directly support habitat restoration and species recovery, while also strengthening the local communities and small businesses that depend on tourism. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism sector supports nearly 200,000 jobs and generates about 16 billion dollars in consumer spending each year. Protecting the natural landscapes and wildlife that draw people here is good for the environment AND it is smart economic policy.

At a time when federal funding and environmental protections are becoming less certain, Oregon has an opportunity to step up and lead. By passing HB 4134, you can help safeguard what we appreciate and value as Oregonians and show that our state is committed to responsible stewardship for future generations.

I respectfully urge you to support the 1.25% for Wildlife proposal and pass HB 4134.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Chris Dodge, lifelong Oregonian