

Submitter: Mark Greenfield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Broadman and Senate Finance and Revenue Committee Members:

As one who has hiked, rafted, birded and mountain-climbed all over Oregon for over 50 years, I urge you to strongly support HB 4134, which comes before you this Thursday.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) State Wildlife Action Plan identifies more than 300 species and 11 habitats currently at risk in Oregon, then outlines corresponding recovery strategies that address habitat loss, climate change and development threats. But to achieve recovery, Oregon needs a long-term, dedicated, stable state funding source, something we lack today. With a dedicated funding source, like our neighbor Washington has, we can engage in the types of land management that increase biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk to communities, and ensure healthy habitats that conserve and protect our wildlife species. And in doing so, serve the millions of folks who recreate in our beautiful state.

HB 4134 — also known as 1.25% for Wildlife — would create a stable funding source for conservation. It places a minimal increase on Oregon's transient lodging tax, which would be paid primarily by tourists and visitors rather than Oregonians. Even with this increase, Oregon would maintain the third lowest transient lodging taxes of any state in the U.S.

Critically, this legislation would ensure both a healthy tourism economy and a thriving Oregon ecosystem. And maintaining a thriving tourism economy makes total sense. People love the beauty of our state. They come here to fish, to hunt, to bird, to recreate, to explore and enjoy the lands that support our wildlife. Indeed, Oregon's outdoor tourism economy accounts for 2.6 percent of the state's gross domestic product, supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022 Report). This benefits us all. The revenue generated by HB 4134 would be dedicated to conservation and stewardship programs across the state. It would support resources for ranchers and rural communities navigating wolf recovery. It would improve land management to reduce wildfire risk and enhance community resilience. And it would enhance biodiversity and aid recovery of our most threatened species

Please support HB 4134, so that our fish and wildlife, our special places, and our tourism industry can thrive.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Mark Greenfield