

Submitter: Terry Donahe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Terry Donahe, and I live in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of ****HB 4134 with the -1 amendment****, which would increase the state transient lodging tax by 1.25% to provide dedicated, long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's identity is inseparable from its natural legacy. From the sagebrush steppe of the high desert to our rivers, forests, and coastlines, our native fish and wildlife define who we are and why so many people choose to live, work, and visit here. These landscapes are not just beautiful — they are foundational to our culture, economy, and quality of life.

According to Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan, more than 300 species are identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including more than 100 found in Oregon's high desert. Without stable and dedicated funding, we risk continued habitat loss, fragmentation, invasive species spread, and increased wildfire impacts that threaten these species and the ecosystems that sustain them.

HB 4134 provides a practical, forward-looking solution. By modestly increasing the lodging tax, this bill creates long-term, dedicated conservation funding to:

- * Restore and protect sagebrush ecosystems
- * Improve wildlife connectivity and corridors
- * Reduce invasive species
- * Strengthen wildfire resilience
- * Support biodiversity statewide

Healthy ecosystems are also essential to Oregon's economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism contribute approximately 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, support nearly 192,000 jobs, and generate \$16 billion in consumer spending annually. We cannot sustain a strong tourism economy without healthy lands, waters, and wildlife. Conservation is not separate from economic vitality — it is foundational to it.

At a time when federal conservation funding and protections are uncertain, Oregon has both the opportunity and responsibility to lead. Passing HB 4134 would position Oregon as a national leader in proactive wildlife stewardship, biodiversity protection, and landscape resilience.

This modest investment will help ensure that future generations can experience thriving wildlife, intact habitats, and the natural heritage that makes Oregon special.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry Donahe