

Submitter: Christine Mellon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Christine Mellon and I live in beautiful Bend, Oregon. I am in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Our native fish, wildlife, and diverse habitats are central to what makes Oregon special and to why we and many others, choose to live, visit, and recreate here. HB 4134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

State leadership is especially important right now. As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to step forward and invest in its natural legacy. HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine Mellon