

Submitter: Ryan Wummel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4134. This legislation represents a historic, bipartisan opportunity to safeguard the natural beauty and wildlife that define our state while providing essential support to the rural communities that manage these lands.

1. Closing the Funding Gap for Conservation For too long, Oregon's conservation efforts have relied almost exclusively on hunting and fishing licenses. As climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species put nearly 300 of our native species at risk, this "user-pay" model is no longer sufficient. HB 4134 creates a stable, dedicated funding stream to ensure that all species—not just game species—can thrive for future generations.

2. Supporting Rural Economies and Ranchers This bill is a critical "good neighbor" policy. By funding wolf depredation compensation and conflict-reduction tools, the state is finally sharing the cost of conservation with the ranchers and farmers who live with it every day. It also supports the Oregon Conservation Corps, which provides workforce development while reducing wildfire risk in our most vulnerable communities.

3. Protecting the Tourism Economy Oregon's tourism industry depends on healthy habitats and iconic wildlife. HB 4134 asks visitors to contribute a small amount—roughly the cost of a cup of coffee per stay—to reinvest in the very resources they come here to enjoy. This is a smart business-retention strategy that ensures our natural assets remain a draw for global travelers.