

Submitter: Sandra Staklis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I strongly support HB 4134 with the 1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and provide dedicated funding to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural legacy. Our native fish and wildlife, along with our diverse landscapes are central to what makes Oregon special and to why I live here and spend my vacation funds here. I value wildlife and want to see it thrive.

HB 4134 would provide long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. This bill would secure sustainable resources to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide. At a time when federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are being reduced, state leadership is especially important. Oregon has both an opportunity and a responsibility to step forward and invest in its natural legacy.

On a personal level, for the 15+ years that I have lived in the state, I spend multiple vacations each year enjoying the outdoors in Oregon. Just next month, I am heading to Oregon's high desert for hiking and in the following month, to the Oregon coast. The US desperately needs proactive conservation, and HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, our state can set an example for how to protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems for generations to come.

Thank you for your service and for considering my strong support for HB 4134 with the -1 amendment. I respectfully urge you to vote yes.