



February 25, 2026

Oregon Senate Committee on Revenue
Re: Public Testimony for HB 4134; "1.25% for Wildlife Bill"

Dear Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

On behalf of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District ("WMSWCD"), I am writing in support of HB 4134, or the "1.25% for Wildlife" Bill. This bill includes support for the Oregon Invasive Species Council's ("OISC") Emergency Invasive Species Control Account to fund projects that are crucial for protecting Oregon's natural resources and agricultural commodity-based industry. The annual cost of invasive species impacts in Oregon range from \$0.5B - \$3B. The Emergency Invasive Species Control Account ensures timely responses to emerging or expanding invasive species infestations before they proliferate. This fund is crucial for time-sensitive "early detection, rapid response" species that don't have other state-allocated funding. A recent success in which OISC used previously allocated funds to suppress an invasive species infestation is the Japanese beetle response. OISC approved nearly \$500 million for the Japanese Beetle control efforts in Washington County, funding the suppression of both grubs and adults. Japanese beetles feed voraciously on a wide range of crops, including grapes, hops, fruits, roses, turf, and berries; all of which are vital to Oregon's agriculture-based economy.

WMSWCD is a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our service territory includes Multnomah County west of the Willamette River, Sauvie Island, and a portion of Bonny Slope. One of our priority conservation goals is the prevention, early detection-rapid response, and management and control of invasive species. By definition, invasive species are those introduced plants, pathogens, insects and aquatic organisms that spread rapidly due to a lack of biological controls and their spread leads to ecological, economic and social harm to people and the environment.

We work closely with agriculture and forest landowners and lead watershed-level restoration projects that target invasive species through suppression efforts and protect sensitive species such as salmon. Invasive insect pests, such as the Japanese Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer, are currently expanding their populations, and are expected to begin impacting our District as early as this year. We can't afford to undo all the hundreds of thousands of dollars in restoration work we have invested over the years by allowing these new invasive species to expand unchecked.

Without the passage of HB 4134, the OISC Emergency Invasive Species Control Account will be left nearly empty, and we will risk the inability to quickly respond to new invasive species threats once they are detected. Our state's environmental and economic livelihoods are at stake. Please vote yes to passing HB 4134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Delepine". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

Michelle Delepine, Invasive Species Program Coordinator
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors