

Submitter: Chanel Hason
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134, the 1.25% for Wildlife bill.

Oregon's natural beauty is not an accident - it is the result of healthy ecosystems, thriving wildlife, and generations of stewardship. From our rugged coastline and kelp forests to high desert sagebrush and old-growth forests, wildlife and habitat are at the heart of what makes Oregon special.

People do not travel here by chance. They come to experience migrating gray whales off the coast, watch elk roam our forests, marvel at seabirds nesting along our cliffs, and paddle through estuaries teeming with life. Outdoor recreation and wildlife viewing contribute billions of dollars annually to Oregon's economy. Yet despite this economic and cultural importance, funding for wildlife conservation - especially for non-game species - remains inconsistent and insufficient.

HB 4134 provides a stable, sustainable funding mechanism to ensure the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife can proactively conserve species and habitats before they become endangered and far more costly to recover. This bill represents a smart investment in prevention rather than crisis response.

Healthy wildlife populations are not only ecologically vital - they support tourism, outdoor recreation, rural economies, and the quality of life that draws families and businesses to Oregon. They help maintain clean water, resilient forests, and productive coastlines. In short, they sustain the very landscapes that define us.

The 1.25% for Wildlife proposal ensures that all Oregonians contribute modestly to protecting the shared natural heritage that benefits us all - residents and visitors alike.

We have an opportunity to secure long-term funding that matches the scale of the responsibility we hold. Future generations deserve to inherit an Oregon where salmon still return to our rivers, birds still fill our skies, and wildlife continues to thrive across our state.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 4134 and help secure a stable future for Oregon's wildlife and habitats.

Thank you for your time and consideration.