

Submitter: John Ostrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue (Chair – Sen. Broadman, Vice Chair – Sen. McLane, Members – Sens. Anderson, Patterson, and Taylor):

I am John K. Ostrom from Eugene, OR and I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the 1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. I am personally connected to conservation as an avid hiker, backpacker, nature guide, and supporter of habitat restoration efforts, especially here in Lane County. Investing in Oregon's biodiversity is critical to ensuring a healthy ecosystem now and for future generations. I have seen firsthand how the removal of non-native and invasive plants species with the planting back of the appropriate native species has led to the restoration of habitats whereby pollinator insects, birds, and many other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife organisms thrive. I am involved as a volunteer in many of these types of endeavors in the greater Eugene area. There are many benefits that passage and enactment of HB 4134 will allow including:

- Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural legacy. Our native fish, wildlife, and diverse habitats—including the high desert and sagebrush steppe—are central to what makes Oregon special and to why people choose to live, visit, and recreate here.
- Oregonians value wildlife and want to see it thrive. Many of us are proud of Oregon's natural heritage and care deeply about protecting it for future generations. A strong majority of Oregonians support dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.
- 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.
- Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending.
- We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.
- 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.

I urge you to support HB 4134 and to provide passage forward in the legislative process!

Thank you for your service to Oregon!

Best Regards,

John K. Ostrom  
Eugene, OR