

Submitter: Karen Jacobson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for HB 4134. My name is Karen Jacobson, I live in SW Portland. My 12 year old daughter would like to be a marine biologist when she grows up and we enjoy going to the Oregon coast and going tide pooling and exploring. It is essential that we protect and restore Oregon's vulnerable species and habitats.

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. This is especially true for our rural and coastal populations.

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.

Thank you for doing what is right and supporting Oregon's wildlife for generations to come. No one will remember the tax they paid for an Airbnb, but they will certainly remember if they saw a majestic heron or adorable sea otter (hopefully coming to OR coasts soon) on their vacation!