

Submitter: Anthony Skowlund

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Anthony Skowlund and I am a long-term resident of Lake Oswego, Oregon. 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. 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. I am retired and have spent much of the last 10 years traveling the world exploring many places of outstanding beauty. Every time I return home to Oregon I am reminded of the incredible value of wild areas we have here and throughout much of the American West. Very few other places in the world have access to the kind of unspoiled wildlands we have here. For this reason I am 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. I am urging Oregon's senators to support this bill and secure a future for Oregon's wildlife that makes life in this state so special.