

Submitter: Lindsey Wise

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

To the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I write to ask you to support the 1.25% for Wildlife bill HB 4134. Oregon's wild lands and diverse species are a source of pride for Oregonians and a huge draw for visitors to our state. Wild lands and the species they support bring us health by supporting clean air, water, and places for recreation, solitude, and reflection, and they support our economy through tourism. Oregonians and visitors love our beaches, forests, and canyons, but these places need care and protection. The funds raised through the 1.25% for Wildlife bill are essential to responsibly managing and conserving these wild places for all the plants and animals that depend on them and all Oregonians who benefit from them.

In addition to supporting Oregon's natural resources and supporting wildlife, these funds will support the important work of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC).

Though I write in my personal capacity as an Oregon resident, in my profession I have worked with and supported the OISC and I have seen first hand how important its work is in protecting and preserving Oregon's natural resources and our economy from the threat of invasive species.

The OISC is a highly collaborative and successful statewide network of agencies, industries, universities, and the public and deserves additional state support.

As one example of the council's work, the Oregon invasive species hotline is a long running and very successful public outreach and reporting tool (website and phone number) that leads to early detection and rapid response of invasive species. It gives the public a direct line to a statewide network of invasive species experts. Having a known annual source of funding would ensure this platform could continue to be there for Oregonians. It is a small investment for big public value.

Please vote yes on HB 4143 to support and protect Oregon's wildlife and habitats, something so valuable it is well worth this investment both for the environment and for Oregonians.

Thank you,
Lindsey Wise
Tigard resident