

## Citizen Testimony in Support of HB 4134: Oregon's 1.5% for Wildlife

Chair Broadman and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

For the record, my name is Kent Doughty, a resident of Tillamook County, Oregon. I'm writing today in strong support of HB 4134, the 1.5% for Wildlife bill. As an Oregonian who values our state's natural heritage, I believe this legislation is a common-sense investment in the health of our ecosystems, communities, and future generations.

Oregon's landscapes—our rivers, forests, coastlines, and deserts—are home to more than 900 species of wildlife, many of which are in decline due to habitat loss, climate change, and inadequate funding for conservation. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife receives only a fraction of the resources it needs to adequately manage non-game species and restore habitats. HB 4134 provides a practical solution by dedicating 1.5% of the state's general fund to wildlife conservation, ensuring that our public investment matches the value of the natural world we all depend on.

This bill isn't just about protecting animals; it's about sustaining Oregon's outdoor economy and quality of life. Healthy ecosystems support clean water, recreation, tourism, and even wildfire resilience. In Tillamook County, for example, the health of coastal wildlife directly supports our fishing and tourism industries—lifelines for our local economy. By funding wildlife conservation, HB 4134 strengthens rural communities and creates jobs in habitat restoration and environmental education.

Investing in wildlife protection is a proactive choice—it costs far less to prevent species decline than to recover them once they're endangered. The 1.5% allocation is modest, but its impact will be significant and long-lasting, ensuring that Oregon remains a place where people and wildlife can thrive together.

I urge you to pass HB 4134 and make Oregon a leader in responsible, science-based conservation. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to preserving our shared natural heritage.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kent Doughty  
Tillamook County, Oregon