

Submitter: Kyenne Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Hi, My name is Kyenne Williams. Currently I reside in Portland, and I was born in Eugene and grew up in Newport. My personal geography is a major factor in my STRONG support of this bill: growing up in Lincoln County, working as a motel maid in the summer through high school, illustrated how tied our wellbeing as a community was to things the like state lodging tax. It also showed me over time, how maintaining the wellbeing of our natural environment (by speaking on behalf of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats) was enlightened self-interest. As thrived these 'resources, so thrived my community.

This is of course the natural legacy of being an Oregonian - born or adopted! The health and diversity of these native habitats—be it coastal forests or the high desert and sagebrush steppe—are central to what makes Oregon special and to why people choose to live, visit, and recreate here. We value wildlife and want to see it thrive, we treasure our natural heritage and care deeply about protecting it for future generations.

A significant majority of Oregonians support dedicated funding to recover and maintain these habitats. Please vote with me (I vote!!) to pass HB 4134. We need long-term, dedicated funding for conservation including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient biodiverse landscapes. When I state this is "enlightened self-interest", healthy habitats are essential for both wildlife, and human economy. Our outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters: by supporting HB 4134, you are support natural wildlife and beauty that translates to 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. Nobody is going to travel to Oregon to look at dead streams, clearcut hillsides, lifeless coastways. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is foundational to economic vitality—it is foundational to it.

YOUR leadership will create a lasting legacy. Keep our natural beauty alive: it's an irreplaceable legacy 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. Set an example - be fearless in protecting both beauty and economic vitality.

Best regards,
Kyenne Williams