

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

I'm writing on behalf of my two year old great granddaughter.

HB 4134 protects wildlife and human health. The health of people and our environment is inextricably linked. Keeping nature healthy keeps people healthy. Projects funded by this legislation will help protect clean drinking water, support wild pollinators that are essential to our food and natural systems, and maintain species like bats that help control insect populations. These investments aren't just an investment in our environment; they're an investment in community health for future generations.

Oregon has a list of over 300 vulnerable species that require intervention. HB 4134 invests in conserving and restoring the habitat these species rely upon, while also supporting Oregonians' livelihoods, outdoor recreation, and quality of life. Communities in Oregon, especially our rural communities, rely on thriving, healthy environments that support our native wildlife.

This legislation will prevent endangered species conflicts. Recovering a species once it is imperiled enough to warrant listing under the state and federal Endangered Species Act is costly and can create a lot of conflict. By investing in proactive conservation, HB 4134 can avoid costly emergency intervention and conflicts down the road. It is an effective and fiscally responsible policy that will help wildlife and communities now and in the future.

Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife lacks stable funding, especially for non-game species. HB4134 changes that, addressing an issue that is plaguing state wildlife agencies across the country. This bill, supported by a diverse and bipartisan coalition, presents a historic policy opportunity.

HB 4134 strengthens our tourism and outdoor economy, without raising costs for residents.

Thank you for supporting HB 4134.