



WaterWatch of Oregon

Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

HB 4134

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon by Kimberley Priestley

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue **February 26, 2026**

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of Oregon's rivers and aquifers that sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws on these resources.

WaterWatch urges support of HB 4134

WaterWatch strongly supports HB 4134. This bill would impose a modest 1.25% tax on transient lodging to provide dedicated funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to help protect Oregon's iconic fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Providing dedicated funding to protect Oregon's fish, wildlife and habitat will help to conserve over 300 species and their habitats. Having stable dedicated funding is critical to ODFW's work to implement Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan, Wildlife Connectivity Program and Wildlife Stewardship Program. The dedicated funding realized by this bill will also help with the state's anti-poaching efforts and invasive species response, as well as supporting wildfire risk reduction.

Providing a sustainable source of funds to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity is incredibly important not only to Oregon's fish and wildlife, but to the people and economies that depend upon them. Oregon's tourist economy is closely tied to our natural areas and the species they support. Investing in these resources will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 4134.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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