

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

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

My name is Amanda Christie, and I am an elementary school teacher living in Eugene, Oregon. Every day, I see how much my students need nature. They need clean rivers with fish in them. They need forests filled with birdsong instead of smoke from wildfires. They need safe outdoor spaces where they can explore, learn, and simply be kids.

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover and protect Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

In my classroom, we learn about Oregon's forests, salmon, pollinators, and all the wildlife that make our state special. But my students are also learning about wildfire smoke days, habitat loss, and species in decline. It is heartbreaking to explain why rivers are too warm for salmon or why forests they love are burning more often and more intensely. They deserve better. They deserve a future where nature is thriving, not disappearing.

Long-term, dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection is supported by a majority of Oregonians because we understand that our natural resources are not optional — they are essential. Healthy forests help reduce catastrophic wildfires. Protected habitats support fish and wildlife populations. Clean air and water keep our children healthy.

This investment would also strengthen local communities. Oregon's outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. When visitors come to hike in our forests, fish in our rivers, or watch wildlife, they are supporting small businesses across the state. We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Taking care of our natural resources today ensures economic opportunity tomorrow.

At a time when federal protections and funding are uncertain, Oregon has the opportunity to lead. By passing HB 4134, you can help protect the places my students love and depend on. You can help ensure they inherit forests that are green, rivers that are alive with fish, and skies that are clear in the summer.

As a teacher, I want my students to grow up in an Oregon where wildlife thrives, forests are resilient, and outdoor learning is possible all year long. Please support

“1.25% for Wildlife” by passing HB 4134.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Oregon’s future.

Amanda Christie