

Submitter: Dan Rubado

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Dan Rubado and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm a wildlife biologist and am writing to strongly support HB 4134, 1.25% for Wildlife.

Oregon is a special place, and our state's identity is closely tied to our incredible natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. Oregonians' love for the outdoors is known throughout this country, drawing countless visitors to explore our mountains, rivers, and coastline. However, we do not currently have nearly sufficient funding for conservation to make an impact on the fate of most of our sensitive species, outlined in Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's State Wildlife Action Plans. Much of the federal funding and many of the federal agencies we have relied on to conserve threatened, endangered, and sensitive species is flagging. Pittman-Robertson money from hunting and fishing sales and revenue from state licenses and tags have been declining and these sources were never designed to help conserve the vast majority of our wildlife species. So, now is the time for Oregon to take the lead and take responsibility for conserving and protecting our treasured wildlife species, especially the non-game species that receive little attention or financial support from existing sources. Without the decisive action and funding that this bill would provide, we may well lose the wildlife habitats and biodiversity that make Oregon a special place to live and for tourists to visit.

I urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats - all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy. We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our natural legacy and rich biodiversity, which make this state so special. Please pass HB 4134 this legislative session!

Thank you for your time and consideration.