

Submitter: David Harrison
On Behalf Of: Salem Audubon Society
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 David Harrison and I live in Salem. As Conservation Chair of the Salem Audubon Society, I ask for your support for HB 4134, the 1.25% for Wildlife bill. Wildlife conservation has suffered from chronic underfunding in Oregon, and while birds and other wildlife decline year after year due to habitat destruction, climate change, invasive species, and other threats, this problem is not being adequately addressed. This bill would fix that by raising the state tourism tax by 1.25% to fund a wide range of wildlife conservation efforts.

The centerpiece of 1.25% for Wildlife is the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP identifies over 300 species and 11 habitats that are at risk in Oregon, and outlines strategies to help them recover. Unfortunately, there's currently no money to actually implement it in any substantial way. 1.25% for Wildlife would provide an estimated \$30 million a year for the SWAP to actually help recover fish and wildlife populations and restore sensitive habitats.

Oregon's tourism tax is the third lowest in the country and will still be even with an increase of 1.25 percent. HB4 4134 has broad support from everyone from conservationists to ranchers and farmers. I hope you will help get this legislation across the finish line.