



Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Thursday, February 26, 2026

RE: Support for HB 4134 (1.25% for Wildlife)

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

My wife, Emily Cain and I own Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast in rural Wallowa County near Enterprise. Barking Mad is a working farm and we also work in Conservation. We write in *strong support* of HB 4134

Wildlife, wild places, agriculture, and clean water are the foundation of our business and way of life.

Guests from around the country tell us they come specifically for Oregon's public lands, wilderness, and wildlife. Elk, salmon, wolves, spruce grouse, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and marten are among the reasons people travel here, dine at our cafes, and shop in our stores. A typical itinerary includes hiking the Eagle Cap, birding the Zumwalt, fly-fishing in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and sunset beers at Terminal Gravity. They take photos and leave money.

Responsible tourism supports an enviable quality of life and level of service that our small population could not sustain alone. Without it, we could not have made our lives here.

We would not support a proposal we believe would harm our business or community. So we are also pleased the bill is also supported by the agricultural industry, our Senator (Nash), and our Representative (Levy).

No guest has ever told us they wouldn't return because of lodging taxes. Even after this increase, Oregon's rate would be one of the lowest in the country, mostly paid by out-of-state visitors.

At the same time, we *do* often hear concern about declining wildlife, degraded water, habitat loss, and climate change. HB4134 provides the first meaningful, dedicated funding for non-game wildlife conservation in Oregon – addressing a need recognized for decades despite the failure of birdseed and equipment taxes, specialty license plates, and increased general funding.

We are rural small business owners with ties to agriculture, conservation, recreation, and hospitality. We care deeply about wildlife and our community's prosperity. We urge you to pass HB4134 without delay.

Thank you for your consideration,

Two handwritten signatures are shown. The first is a stylized signature that appears to be "R Klavins". The second is a cursive signature that reads "Emily Cain".

Robert Klavins and Emily Cain, Co-Owners
Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast
Wallowa County, OR