

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

My name is Hava Dennenberg. I live in Portland Oregon. I am in STRONG support of HB 4134, which will SUSTAINABLY help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, many of whom are endangered or on the brink of extinction. Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader, and this bill has STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT! It is a win win all around. I won't mince words, wildlife are dying while we play with fire. YOU have a chance to not only stop this, but to also support a THRIVING wildlife and ecosystems they depend on for survival.

This bill just makes great economic sense. I personally will be traveling MORE in Oregon if this passes specifically BECAUSE it will give directly back to support for our wildlife and ecosystems. An independent economic assessment for the "1.25% For Wildlife" proposal in 2025 (HB 2977) found NO correlation between modest tax rate changes (0% to 1% and then 1% to 1.8%) and visitor spending patterns. They also concluded that neighboring states with state lodging tax rates 2-5 times higher than Oregon's consistently demonstrate comparable or stronger. Growth in lodging spending with no adverse effects on their outdoor economy performance. Over 60% of lodging tax spending comes from out-of-state visitors who constitute the majority of TLT spending. Across all state parks in Oregon, non local overnight travelers spend 68% more than overnight locals & non local day visitors spend 138% more than day locals.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of us Oregonians. Over 81% of us value having these as a part of our daily lives here. The funding would not only help habitats & wildlife, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future. We simply cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds & dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable wildlife, fish & their habitats, many species and habitats that support tourism are at growing risk, including tufted puffins & chinook salmon. Historically, there hasn't been ANY dedicated state funding for Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan— Oregon's plan to recover the most imperiled fish, wildlife & habitats. Oregon needs DEDICATED investment in natural resource management & conservation.

Preventing species & habitat decline benefit other industries that contribute to Oregon's economy. A study from 2017 estimated that agricultural losses from bat die off were between \$426 & \$495 million per year, and a 2024 study found that farmers compensated for bat decline by increasing their insecticide use by 31.1%. In just the last decade, the number of Oregon imperiled species has increased from 294 to 321. The "Winter Wings" bird festival in Klamath Falls was cancelled three years in a row due to lack of migratory birds visiting the area, negatively affecting the region's local tourism industry. Wildfire continues to be an urgent problem for Oregon's communities, and mitigation requires significant investment from the state. HB 4134 is an important investment in wildfire resiliency because the SWAP specifically addresses wildfire risk reduction through habitat management and restoration. Creating a wildlife stewardship program to educate the public on wildlife interactions, resolving wildlife conflicts, and establishing a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers which serve on the front lines of human-wildlife. Please support "1.25% for Wildlife TODAY!