



February 26, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Central Oregon LandWatch Testimony on HB 4134A - Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 4134-A. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, public interest organization of more than 1000 members. Its offices are located in Bend, Oregon. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for preserving natural resources in Central Oregon for over 30 years.

LandWatch strongly supports the passage of HB 4134-A.

HB 4134-A proposes a critical funding mechanism to support the recovery and conservation of Oregon’s fish and wildlife species. In the face of climate change and the ongoing biodiversity crisis, it is essential that we bolster our state’s ability to fully address the challenges facing Oregon’s wildlife today.

Unfortunately, current funding levels fall far short of what is needed to implement a broad array of programs and plans effectively, including Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan. This gap hinders our ability to effectively steward, protect and recover Oregon’s fish and wildlife.

By increasing the state’s transient lodging tax (TLT) by just 1.25%, Oregon can establish a sustainable, dedicated funding stream to address these urgent challenges. Oregon’s fish and wildlife are integral to our future. Supporting this bill is an investment in the continued health of our ecosystems and the prosperity of our communities.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Austin
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