

February 26, 2026

Dear Senators:

My name is Bryn Ienna, and I am writing to you as a constituent and student at St. Mary's Academy regarding the House Bill 4134. This bill would increase the state lodging tax to fund various wildlife programs, with the goals of preserving and protecting animals and their habitats. Majority of tourists who come to Oregon have goals of visiting nature and seeing wildlife, but without funding to protect the places tourists visit, the natural beauty of Oregon will slowly disappear. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 4134, which would protect and conserve the nature that so many people come to Oregon to experience, while simultaneously having a positive impact on our struggling economy.

House Bill 4134 would raise the state lodging tax from from 1.5% to 2.75%.<sup>1</sup> Since the economy of Oregon depends on our natural resources, there is an increasing need for wildlife funding, and this bill would generate it. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department receives very little state funding and from 2023 to 2025, only 2% of funds went to wildlife conservation, with most of Oregon's federal funds (around \$20 million) going to big game species and game fish.<sup>2</sup> Wildlife conservation would truly happen if House Bill 4134 passed, resulting in economic growth. In 2022 alone, outdoor recreation in Oregon produced over \$16 billion in business spending.<sup>3</sup> If there continues to be a lack of conservation funding, this number will shrink because without wildlife to see, clean water, healthy land, and fishable rivers and lakes, money produced from outdoor recreation would significantly decline or stop altogether, creating an unstable and declining economy.

Oregon communities face hardships from the lack of wildlife funding. Due to the lack of wildlife protection, the decreasing populations of animals causes food supplies to decrease, fishing and hunting to become less sustainable, various outdoor activities to become less profitable, and much more. With the decrease in the health of habitats and land, droughts become more common, crops become harder to grow, and clean water becomes scarce. I love camping, hiking, enjoying nature, and spending time outdoors. It's heartbreaking to think that without conservation funding, Oregon's precious animals and land will one day become extinct or

---

<sup>1</sup> HB 4134, 83<sup>rd</sup> Congress. (2026)

<sup>2</sup> Amal Ahmed, "Would you pay 1% more for wildlife?" High Country News, January 27, 2026, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/would-you-pay-1-more-for-wildlife/>

<sup>3</sup> Erin Mackey and Ken Cousins, "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: 2022 Update," Earth Economics, 2024, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Documents/2024.07.17%20Economic%20analysis%20of%20outdoor%20recreation%20in%20OR%20-%202022%20update.pdf>

damaged. House Bill 4134 is an essential step in the direction of protecting ourselves and our resources from climate change and other environmental threats.

I urge you to support the conservation funding crucial to securing the future safety of our wildlife and economy. If you or your staff have any questions regarding House Bill 4134 or its benefits to Oregon, please contact me. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with your office in the future.

Sincerely,

Bryn Ienna

### Bibliography

Mackey, Erin and Cousins Ken. "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: 2022 Update." Earth Economics, 2024.  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Documents/2024.07.17%20Economic%20analysis%20of%20outdoor%20recreation%20in%20OR%20-%202022%20update.pdf>

Ahmed, Amal. "Would you pay 1% more for wildlife?" High Country News, January 27, 2026.  
<https://www.hcn.org/articles/would-you-pay-1-more-for-wildlife/>