

February 26, 2026

Dear Senator Broadman,

My name is Marketa Pechanec, and I am writing to you as a high school student and a resident of Portland regarding House Bill 4134, a tax hike for wildlife preservation. This bill would increase funds for wildlife habitats, compensation for predator attacks, and wildfire prevention, by adding a tax on transient lodging. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 4134, which would establish programs that would help various wildlife species have safe homes, as well as aiding those affected by predators, illegal hunting, and wildfires.

According to House Bill 4134, funds like ORS 320.305, a statute imposing state transient lodging tax (currently 1.8% in Oregon), donations, grants, and sales of animal and fish stamps (hunting licenses) will be put into Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund subaccount.¹ This subaccount will help with keeping the collected funds in one account, and will benefit animals by providing resources for habitats, wildfire prevention, and more. Furthermore, these funds will also be given to agencies, such as: the Department of State of Police to combat poaching of wildlife, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife connectivity efforts, and the Department of Justice for efforts related to anti-poaching and wildlife law enforcement.² With the help of these agencies and programs, Oregon's beautiful wildlife will stay protected from predators, poaching, and natural disasters. "This is the first real opportunity to recover Oregon's troubled fish and wildlife species." says James Neff, an investigation editor and an author from *Willamette Week*, who claims that the passing of the bill will help raise millions of dollars to repay farmers and ranchers for the animals they lost due to wolf attacks.³ Not only that, but House Bill 4134 will assist with managing invasive species, lessening the risk of wildfires, and growing the rural workforces. Animal safety is a crucial part of Oregon's nature and wildlife, and now we have the chance to take a stand for protecting those species that make our state so special.

I have always loved animals, and in the vast wildlife of Oregon, there are so many species to discover. I thought of Oregon's reputation as an animal and forest haven. However, when I learned that wildfires, poaching, and predator attacks are becoming more frequent, and that already endangered species are becoming less common and more endangered, I realized that this bill creates a way to combat this. With the passing of House Bill 4134, there is a chance to help stop the dangers that are causing the wildlife to be so sparse.

¹ "State of Oregon: Transient Lodging Taxes," *Tillamookcoast.com*, 2007, tillamookcoast.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/State-of-Oregon-TLT-laws-relating-to-tourism-facilities.docx

² HB 4134, 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly. (2026).

³ James Neff, "Hunters and Environmentalists Join Together to Fight for Lodging Tax Increase," *Willamette Week*, 27 June 2025,

www.wweek.com/news/state/2025/06/27/hunters-and-environmentalists-join-together-to-fight-forlodging-tax-increase/

I urge you to support House Bill 4134, which would help protect and preserve wildlife safety from many changes. If you or your staff would like additional information, please contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marketa Pechanec

Bibliography

Neff, James. "Hunters and Environmentalists Join Together to Fight for Lodging Tax Increase."

Willamette Week, 27 June 2025. www.wweek.com/news/state/2025/06/27/hunters-and-environmentalists-join-together-to-fight-for-lodging-tax-increase/

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