

HB 4134

We are living under a current regime in this country which is bent on destroying our public lands for the sake of appeasing their particular, greedy interests. Our trees and forests are at risk, all for the monetary interests of corporate America. The greater this threat becomes, the more imperiled our wildlife will be.

Studies indicate that the number of our precious animals has diminished by half since the 1960s. The threat of pollution and development has already diminished the habitat of wildlife and only continues to worsen. This, in turn, becomes a point of contention between humans and animals, both vying for survival in their own space. This is where the conflict begins, when animals are being subjected to the hazards of the human population. It is imperative that we protect them.

For this to happen, it is imperative that we have institutions in place, medical care in particular. By initiating HB 4134, we can make funding available for services such as ODFW, Think Wild and whatever entities are available to help rescue the animals that become damaged and hurt. Think Wild is an animal hospital that has proven to be successful in its venture to not only accommodate medical care when wildlife is at its most dire need but also to allow for them to be reintroduced back into the wild, thus adding to the population that is so rapidly diminishing. The success rate is significant but it cannot be done without proper funding.

Asking for the passage of this bill is the most efficient and fair way to supply this funding. Oregon is a unique place and a state where many people come to witness our forests and its inhabitants. We have no sales tax which is also an incentive for tourists to visit our state and enjoy the benefits we have to offer. A nominal fee of 1%(+) is a small ask and not too much to expect from people that want to come here to witness all that our state has to offer. This is income that we need to further advance the safety and welfare of our animal population in all its glory.

Oregon is rich in so many arenas but for us to continue to truly be who we claim to be, our duty should be to the entity of the wildlife that has become part of why tourists make their way here. Perhaps we owe it to the animals and the forests to protect them, to make sure they thrive, not just for their sake but for the generations to come that might understand how the existence of wildlife and trees make the earth a better place for all of us, the wonder of nature at its best.

I feel very strongly about the necessity of the passage of this bill as I know so many others do as well. It is up to us to do what is right. There are no second chances in this matter and it is crucial we take this step before it's too late and there will be no turning back. I implore the powers that be to please, make this crucial protection happen. We need to be the best ambassadors of nature and to prove we are really ready to step up and do what we should for the animals.