

Submitter: Shane Kramer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

HB 4134 addresses this long-standing gap by modestly increasing the statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25 percentage points and dedicating that revenue to wildlife, habitat, and natural resource priorities. This approach creates stable, predictable funding while asking visitors who benefit from Oregon's natural landscapes to help reinvest in the resources that draw them here. Roughly two thirds of the tax is paid by out-of-state visitors, and Oregon would remain among the lowest lodging tax states in the nation even after the increase.

The bill reflects years of collaboration and has earned broad, bipartisan support. Importantly, HB 4134 directs funding to clearly defined priorities that Oregonians care about, including implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan, wildlife habitat connectivity, invasive species response, anti-poaching enforcement, wildlife stewardship and rehabilitation, wolf depredation compensation, wildfire risk reduction through the Oregon Conservation Corps, and community-based conservation and recreation projects.

For hunters and anglers, HB 4134 represents a long overdue rebalancing of wildlife funding. Sportsmen and women remain proud to be the primary funders of wildlife conservation through licenses and excise taxes and have supported recent fee increases. However, those dollars alone are not sufficient to meet the scale of today's conservation challenges. This bill broadens the funding base in a fair and transparent way while strengthening Oregon's ability to leverage federal matching dollars and deliver measurable conservation outcomes.

HB 4134 is both sound conservation policy and a prudent investment in the resources that underpin the most durable components of Oregon's economic engine. Outdoor recreation contributes billions of dollars annually to Oregon's economy and supports communities across the state. Investing in healthy fish, wildlife, and habitat protects this economic engine while preserving Oregon's natural heritage for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony.