



ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS
P.O. Box 55400 Portland, OR. 97238
office@anws.org

Good evening Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Senators Anderson, Patterson, and Taylor,

Since 1960, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders has advocated for strong fisheries, improved public access, and meaningful investments in fish and wildlife restoration. Our membership includes not only Oregonians, but also anglers from neighboring states such as Washington and Idaho who travel here to experience Oregon's world-class fisheries.

On behalf of these anglers, I am here to express our strong support for House Bill 4134. Simply put, funding the State Wildlife Action Plan will strengthen our fisheries, attract more anglers to Oregon, and generate increased economic activity through outdoor recreation and tourism.

Each year, more than 500,000 Oregon residents purchase angling or shellfish licenses, along with over 100,000 nonresidents. These individuals travel throughout the state to fish, contributing directly to local economies and the tourism industry. Oregon is also a destination for anglers from across the country—and around the world—drawn by the opportunity to fish our iconic waters. Investing in the recovery of key species will only enhance these opportunities and economic benefits.

House Bill 4134 would generate critical funding for the State Wildlife Action Plan, which serves as Oregon's blueprint for conserving and recovering species of concern. This includes several iconic and economically important species such as Chinook, Coho, Chum, and Sockeye salmon; winter and summer steelhead; redband trout; coastal cutthroat trout; and white sturgeon.

The demand for these fisheries is real. For example, I recently spoke with a group of anglers who traveled from Minnesota specifically to fish for sturgeon in Oregon—highlighting the far-reaching draw of our natural resources.

At its core, this bill addresses a clear and urgent need: increased and more reliable funding for wildlife conservation, paired with the ability to direct those funds effectively. This is a critical moment for Oregon's fish and wildlife, and House Bill 4134 provides a meaningful step forward.

I would gladly support this investment, and I am confident that the vast majority of the recreational angling community would as well—especially considering the significant financial contributions anglers already make annually through licenses and fees.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to the people of Oregon.

James Adkins
Executive Director
Association of NW Steelheaders