

Submitter: David Martin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is David Martin, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural legacy. Our native fish, wildlife, and diverse habitats—including the high desert and sagebrush steppe—are central to what makes Oregon special and why people choose to live, visit, and recreate here. Oregonians value wildlife and want to see it thrive. Many of us are proud of our natural heritage and care deeply about protecting it for future generations. A strong majority support dedicated funding to recover vulnerable species and habitats.

HB 4134 provides long-term, dedicated funding for conservation. It would secure sustainable resources to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide. Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism depend on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Investing in conservation supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

State leadership is especially important now. As federal funding and protections are reduced, Oregon has the opportunity—and responsibility—to invest in its natural legacy.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader in protecting biodiversity, reducing wildfire risk, supporting wildlife stewardship, and sustaining healthy ecosystems.

As someone who spends time outdoors and values Oregon's wild places, I've seen firsthand how healthy habitats support both wildlife and our communities. Investing in Oregon's biodiversity is important to me because I want future generations to experience the same natural beauty and opportunity that make this state home.

Thank you for your time