

Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue:

My name is Providance Nagy; and I reside in Portland, Oregon. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state transient lodging tax (i.e., nature conservation fee¹) to enhance the recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection provides stable state funding that would increase Oregon's competitiveness for grants, especially those that require matching funds; and Oregon would be better positioned for multistate conservation. I also believe that predictable funding bolsters proactive work that, in turn, elevates transparency, accountability and commitment of such publicly funded efforts.

Since the state does not collect a state sales tax, the lodging tax allows for external dollars to contribute to the safeguarding of outdoor tourism experienced by visitors and Oregonians alike. Artificial intelligence cannot replace the personal interaction that Oregon's natural resources uniquely offer; it is therefore paramount to invest in the ongoing success of Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy that supports thousands of jobs among Oregon's communities and brings in approximately \$16 billion in consumer spending.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) reminds us of the importance of conservation:

Oregon's natural areas—from coastal forests to sagebrush steppe—are home to hundreds of fish and wildlife species. Nearly 300 species in the state face extinction due to threats like habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and pollution. Iconic wildlife, including bighorn sheep and coho salmon, along with many insects and plants, are at risk.²

By approving HB 4134, the State of Oregon will afford a very special 250th birthday³ gift to future generations of Oregonians, to the economic vitality of the Pacific Northwest, and the natural beauty of this nation for decades to come.

Please support our state's natural environments by passing HB 4134.

Sincerely,

Providance Nagy

¹ Implementing a "nature conservation fee" aligns with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Conservation Investment statement that its funds "connects people with nature through grants that support conservation efforts with partners." Source: <https://www.fws.gov/program/office-conservation-investment> (accessed 2/27/26)

² Quote source: <https://myodfw.com/articles/oregons-updated-state-wildlife-action-plan> (accessed 2/27/26)

³ See also the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's collection of photos and other highlights to help celebrate America's 250th birthday at <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/our-nations-nature> (accessed 2/27/26)