



To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Re: Support for HB 4134

27 February, 2026

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

The [Oregon Ocean Alliance](#) is a group of eight member organizations that work collectively to advance the protection of Oregon's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Our geographic scope includes federal and state ocean waters, and coastal habitats such as estuaries and beaches. We respectfully submit the following comments in **support of passing HB 4134**. This legislation would raise the transient lodging tax (TLT) by 1.25% to provide dedicated funding for the conservation of Oregon's at-risk wildlife and habitats that will help keep Oregon's coasts healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Oregon's identity lies in its natural beauty and wildlife, including its iconic coastline, which fuels a robust outdoor recreation and tourism sector drawing millions of visitors every year. Yet many of Oregon's species and habitats are facing increasing pressure from climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and other impacts. Without investment in conservation and recovery, these challenges threaten not only wildlife but also the long-term resilience of Oregon's recreation and tourism economy.

This need for investment is particularly urgent along Oregon's coast. The Oregon coast is home to the highest overlap of at-risk species identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) (see Figure 1), with over 63 at-risk coastal and marine species including 17 fish species of commercial and recreational importance. Healthy marine and coastal habitats are the foundation of coastal tourism, sustainable fisheries, and working waterfront economies. Investments in habitat restoration, ecosystem monitoring, and species recovery strengthen ocean resilience, support sustainable fisheries and management, and protect the livelihoods of coastal communities that depend on healthy oceans for jobs, food security, recreation, and cultural identity.

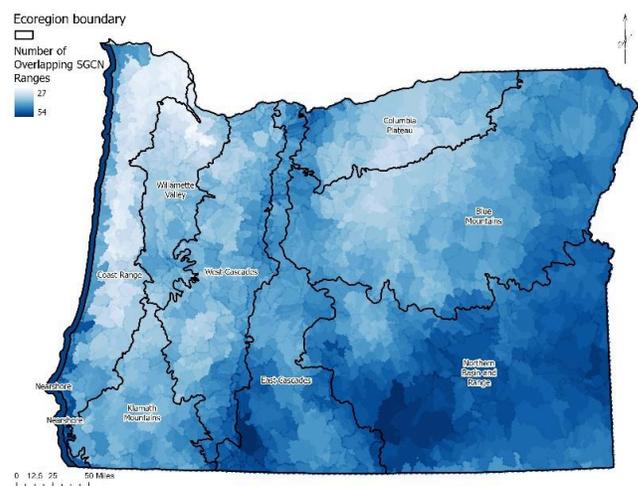


Figure 1. Map of overlapping ranges for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), provided by Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

HB 4134 is a bold and proactive funding solution that directly helps at-risk species and habitats



identified in our SWAP. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) does not receive any dedicated funds for the recovery and conservation of these at-risk species and habitats. A modest 1.25% increase in Oregon's statewide TLT would establish a sustainable funding source for ODFW to recover and conserve Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats before declines become irreversible and far more costly to address.

If passed, HB 4134 would position Oregon as a national leader in wildlife and natural resource stewardship by:

- Providing an estimated \$25-27 million annually for wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and species recovery efforts;
- Establishing a wildlife stewardship program to improve public education on wildlife interactions, resolving wildlife conflict, and supporting wildlife rehabilitation through a new grant program;
- Strengthening anti-poaching and invasive species management; and
- Supporting wildfire prevention and habitat resilience through investment in the Oregon Conservation Corps.

Oregon's coastline is one of the most diverse and treasured landscapes in the nation. As Oregonians, it plays a central role in our shared sense of place and provides essential infrastructure that supports our fisheries, tourism economy, and coastal communities. We cannot sustain a thriving tourism industry or advance Oregon's blue economy without abundant fish, resilient habitats, and functioning marine ecosystems.

At a time when federal funding is increasingly uncertain, Oregon has an opportunity to invest in the natural systems that sustain both our economy and our communities. HB 4134 represents a practical, locally driven solution that ensures visitors who benefit from Oregon's natural beauty help to support its long-term stewardship. For these reasons, we urge the committee to **support the passing of HB 4134** and secure the natural legacy that defines our state.

Sincerely,

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