

In support of HB 4134-1

To Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:
Leo Cohen, Sunnyside Environmental School,
2-27-2026,

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

As a lifelong Oregon resident and 8th grader at a Portland K-8 writing to express my support for HB 4134-1, which provides essential funding for Oregon wildlife conservation efforts, I can't imagine life without abundant and varied wild places. I love hiking the Wildwood trail with my dad, going on school trips to learn about ecology, and spending quality time in local parks.

For the last two spring breaks, I've gone to the beautiful Smith Rock state park to hike and rock climb. Both times, I've had a blast climbing up idyllic walls and hauling myself up steep trails. The place is full of healthy thriving wildlife and a super excited community of people that love the place as much, if not more, than I do. But, these places are under attack. Habitat fragmentation, deforestation, overfishing, poaching, overly large wildfires, invasive species, and more are all threats to the places we Oregonians love. This bill would provide almost \$40M to research, mitigate and manage them effectively at a marginal cost to the consumer (only \$2.50 on a \$200 room).

My response to the opposition that says HB 4134-1 is channeling TLT money meant for tourism towards non-tourism programs is that this *is* a tourism program. Oregon's tourism is largely driven by wild places and habitats, as well as the diverse species that reside in them. Without protecting these places and the animals in them, Oregon's tourism could take a big hit. 200,000 Oregon jobs depend on the outdoor tourism economy, contributing \$16 billion annually. There is also data showing that when Oregon and other states have increased their TLT by the same or a greater amount, the hit to tourism spending has been largely nonexistent.

Me and 71% of Oregonians believe that protecting Oregon biodiversity should be a priority. HB 4134-1 is your way to respect our wishes.

Sincerely, Leo Cohen
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