

Testimony in Support of HB 4134

Biodiversity is declining faster than any other time in human history. “Between 1970 and 2018, the world’s seen wildlife populations decline by an average of 69%”¹. And this includes Oregon: On Oregon’s 2025 list of rare, threatened, and endangered species, 554 total species are listed (254 vertebrates, 300 invertebrates). This is 56 more species than the last time the data was published just six years prior in 2019 (242 vertebrates, 256 invertebrates), and 81 more species than 2010 (239 vertebrates, 234 invertebrates).

Biodiversity is critical for a number of reasons:

- Biodiverse ecosystems keep humans healthy.⁴
- “More than 75% of global food crops rely on pollinators, contributing US\$ 235–577 billion annually to global agricultural output”³
- “Healthy ecosystems provide 75% of global freshwater resources”³
- Biodiversity loss is “makes [species] less resilient to disease and climate change”¹

HB 4134 can support Oregon’s biodiversity. Under HB 4134, Oregon’s short-term lodging tax would increase from 1.5% to 2.75%. The revenue generated would support a variety of programs that support Oregon’s wildlife. This increase of, truly, only a few dollars to a given traveler will not deter said traveler from coming to Oregon. A collapse in our ecosystems would:

“Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon’s economy. Oregon’s outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends 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. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.”⁵

State legislators should proudly endorse and vote in support of HB 4134.

350PDX Forest Defense Team



References:

1. The Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/biodiversity-101/>
2. Oregon Biodiversity Information Center: <https://inr.oregonstate.edu/our-products/data-access-submissions/data#ORBICD>
3. World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/biodiversity>
4. Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District: <https://tualatinswcd.org/what-is-biodiversity-and-why-does-it-matter-for-you/>

5. Oregon Natural Desert Association:

https://onda.org/take-action/speak-up-for-oregons-wildlife/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEyMkJubFlhcmtjZTBPMHVGeHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR7YLZtum_rThjWRAJz8isgXnYd1NcBXoRnAsHjxlmxWIOPb8Ylt3Atmk36GKQ_aem_Gh0U-yTYGLeWWqClnX203g