

Submitter: Renee Espenel

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3159

I support HB 3159 - Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund.

I urge Oregon legislature to step up and prioritize wildlife and wildlife habitat and utilize a state transient lodging tax (TLT) to generate money for critical conservation programs.

Oregon, Portland specifically, is a destination for many tourists and the majority of this tax would come from revenue that is paid by these out-of-state visitors (62%). This number potentially would increase as people begin traveling more often, post pandemic.

There is a tendency to ignore that there are systemic failures, in prioritizing funding for wildlife and wildland conservation. We must pay attention, we must do more, we must do better, and we must do it urgently! We are in a climate crisis that is impacting species and habitat at increasingly rapid rates. We all enjoy Oregon's outdoor spaces, let's do something to ensure this for future generations... The wolves, coyotes, otters, beavers, our old growth forests, our rivers, all need our help...because really without those things, we lose our humanity and our natural experiences.