

Submitter: David Harrison

On Behalf Of: Salem Audubon Society

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

Measure: HB3159

As Conservation Chair of Salem Audubon Society, I'm writing on behalf of our hundreds of members in support of HB 3159, Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund. Oregon is blessed with abundant wildlife, but it has been declining in recent years due to habitat loss, climate change, and human-caused impacts. Funding to protect wildlife through the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategy has not kept pace with the threat. HB 3159 would address this by increasing the transient lodging tax by 1.5% to fund these critical programs. Even with the increase, Oregon would have the fourth lowest transient lodging tax in the country. However, the benefits to our fish and wildlife will be substantial. I hope you will support this bill.