

Submitter: Judy and David Berg

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB3159

The greatest good is served only by preserving and protecting biodiverse natural systems on which all life depends and the wildlife that inhabit them. Protect our natural heritage for wildlife and their future generations. Never rest until the wild is truly free. There is no Planet B. There is no Second Nature. Wild Lives Matter!

Wild salmon spawning in Oregon's streams, white pelicans leisurely floating in Klamath marshes, and majestic gray whales migrating along the coast; Oregon is fortunate to be home to such a unique and diverse range of native fish, wildlife and plant species. It's what makes our state so special. However, because of mounting pressures from climate change and the biodiversity crisis, the truth is that nearly 300 of them are at an elevated risk of extinction.

While the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategy are the most effective tools for recovering Oregon's vulnerable species, unfortunately, these programs have been under-funded and under-resourced to meet the growing challenges plaguing fish, wildlife and habitat. That's why we need the Oregon legislature to step up to the plate and prioritize wildlife conservation before it's too late.

Specifically, HB 3159 would utilize a 1.5% increase to the state transient lodging tax (TLT) to generate money for these critical programs. Even with this increase, Oregon would still have the fourth-lowest state TLT in the country. However, the benefits for our state's mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, pollinators and their habitats would be substantial and literally, life-changing.