



House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 21, 2025

Re: HB 2977 (Increases the state transient lodging tax)

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dean Clark, and I am the innkeeper of the Chanticleer Inn, which is located in Ashland, Oregon. I am writing today in support of HB 2977, a bill that would establish dedicated, sustainable funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by raising the state transient lodging tax by 1%.

A thriving environment is critical for our state in general and for the success of our businesses specifically. Many visitors to the Chanticleer Inn travel from out of state to experience Southern Oregon's natural beauty. A typical itinerary for many of our guests is a day of bird watching and hiking in Jackson County before an evening of dinner and a show at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

It upsets me to learn that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife does not have the funding to protect and recover our state's most at-risk fish and wildlife, especially those our visitors enjoy discovering. For example, our guests enjoy observing avian species such as the Acorn Woodpecker and the Grasshopper

Sparrow. For those who love flowers, the Umpqua Mariposa Lily and the Dwarf Meadowfoam are especially popular. Regrettably, all of these species are imperiled.

HB 2977 is a step in the right direction, and the funding it would generate – via a modest increase in our state lodging tax – would directly help at-risk species. Recovering these species through this sustained funding mechanism is a prudent investment in our natural environment and the continued success of our lodging industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I encourage you to support HB 2977.

Sincerely,

Dean Clark

Innkeeper
Chanticleer Inn