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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

In Oregon, we have beautiful landscapes and diverse fish and wildlife species that call them home. It's what makes Oregon so special. If we are to ensure we have abundant and thriving fish and wildlife (and habitat) for generations to come, we need to take action now.

Habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species, and other natural and human-made impacts are taking a toll on many of the species that call our state home. Currently, there are 294 at-risk species that are considered 'species of greatest conservation need' in Oregon. We must take action now or we will lose this treasured natural heritage.

Oregon created the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy, a blueprint for recovering our most vulnerable and imperiled species, with the goals of maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible. For too long, however, the Conservation Strategy has lacked the necessary resources and funds to fully implement the recommended conservation actions.

HB 2977, "1% for Wildlife" proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% to combat the biodiversity crisis we are facing. This change would generate approximately \$30 million a year for proactive wildlife and habitat conservation. It would be a bold, yet cost-effective, solution that would help recover our state's most vulnerable fish and wildlife.

Please help Oregon recover our most at-risk species by supporting HB 2977 today