

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

As a former state park (Silver Falls) employee and 30+ years resident of Oregon, I enthusiastically support HB2977 ("1% for Wildlife"), which would provide critical funding for wildlife protection by increasing the state tourism tax from 1.5% to 2.5%. There are over 300 species at risk in Oregon, and the Oregon Conservation and Near shore Strategy, our most effective tool for addressing this issue, is underfunded. I know from my state park employment that visitors are drawn to this state largely to enjoy the natural beauty and flora and fauna that are found here. Therefore, it is fair to tax them a small amount to ensure that vulnerable species continue to thrive and/or be restored for their continued enjoyment. This bill will not place a tax burden on Oregonians as such. Please forward it out of Committee for the general legislature to vote on.