

Submitter: Susanna Askins

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I support HB 2977.

Nearly ? of all fish and wildlife species in America are at elevated risk of extinction. In Oregon there are 294 at-risk species that are considered 'species of greatest conservation need'. Without proactive action, Oregon stands to lose our treasured natural heritage. For far too long Oregon's 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%. This will combat the biodiversity crisis by investing in the conservation and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitat. This would generate approximately \$30 million a year for proactive wildlife and habitat conservation. This is a great and cost-effective solution that would help recover our state's most vulnerable fish and wildlife.

This is a great idea. Let's see that HB 2977 goes forward!