

Submitter: Wally Sykes

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

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

I strongly support HB 2977.

All the evidence is in and it shows conclusively that over 300 of Oregon's species, including salmon, are heading for local extinction. So far, the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategy is one of the state's more effective tools in reversing this sorry trend.

But the strategy won't work without adequate funding.

Adding 1% to Oregon's tourism tax can revive this struggling program and give it traction. Tourists come to our state to enjoy the natural wonders we still have, especially including wildlife and wildlife habitat. The tourism tax would allow visitors to contribute to the survival of some of the sights they are here to see.

And the tourism tax would still be one of the lowest in the country.

Please support HB 2977.

Thank you.