

Submitter: Mark Rogers

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I support HB 2977, "1% for Wildlife".

Oregon needs more stable funding to recover and sustain the fish and wildlife species that Oregonians prize, and visitors come to Oregon to experience. Increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% (1%) is a small price and necessary investment in Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and the plants and habitats they rely upon. Over 60% of this revenue would come from out-of-state visitors.

Oregon needs dedicated, sustainable funding for the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). We are fortunate to have diverse and abundant native flora and fauna, and the habitats that support them. Yet many of these species and habitats are at risk. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified 330 species of "Greatest Conservation Need" and 201 "Species of Greatest Information Need" in their most recent report. Without intervention these species will continue to decline with some lost to extinction.

This is a threat to the wild Oregon that our citizens value and to Oregon's strong outdoor recreation economy which provides as much as 2.6% of the state's GDP.

This small increase in Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide steady, sustainable funding to ODFW, dedicated to the recovery of Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats. This is a win-win investment in the health of our environment and in our valuable outdoor recreation economy.

Please support and move HB 2977, "1% for Wildlife", forward through the 2025 legislature.