

Submitter: Dianne Ensign

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I am very concerned about the mass extinction of species taking place on our watch, and deeply dismayed at the lack of attention being given to this crisis. Habitat loss and degradation, climate chaos, invasive species, and other natural and human-made impacts are taking a toll on Oregon's birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bees. The Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy could help remedy the crisis: its goals are to maintain 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. But the 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, 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 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.