



LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

AN OREGON CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5086 • EUGENE, OREGON 97405

www.laneaudubon.org

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Lane County Audubon Society in support of HB 2977. Our members value our state resources for bird watching and outdoor recreation, as well as for the natural beauty and habitat provided for birds and other wildlife. Our mission statement: Lane County Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of and education about our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

Multiple scientific reports have affirmed that we are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate. Sure, nobody loves the idea of a new tax but the reality of the situation is that actions taken now are the only hope to stem the tide of loss. Further, we are in a period where state action is more important than ever.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy is sound with the laudable goals of maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations through protecting habitats and at-risk species. However, these goals cannot be met without the necessary resources and funds to fully implement the recommended conservation actions. HB 2977, “1% for Wildlife” proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax a minor amount, from 1.5% to 2.5%, providing essential funds to combat the biodiversity crisis and contribute to Oregon’s tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Please support “1% for Wildlife” by passing HB 2977 today.

Thank you,

Debbie Schlenoff, Ph.D.
Conservation Chair
Lane County Audubon Society