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February 23, 2025

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2977 – 1% for Wildlife

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

Willamette Riverkeeper respectfully submits this testimony in support of HB 2977, the “1% for Wildlife” bill. As an organization dedicated to protecting Oregon’s waterways, Willamette Riverkeeper has observed the significant negative impacts of habitat loss, climate change, and other human-induced pressures on the state’s rivers and the diverse species that depend on them.

In 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of conservation concern. This alarming assessment underscores the urgent need for proactive conservation efforts. HB 2977 offers a bold, innovative solution by establishing the Recovering Oregon’s Wildlife Fund under the Fish and Wildlife Account. Financed through a modest increase to the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, this fund will secure dedicated and sustained resources to implement Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan—a critical step in preserving Oregon’s natural heritage.

For years, Travel Oregon has been actively exploring ways to mitigate the impacts of increased recreation on wild landscapes by supporting stewardship efforts. This bill directly connects outdoor tourism businesses with enhanced resources for wildlife stewardship, ensuring that the economic benefits of the thriving tourism industry contribute directly to safeguarding vital ecosystems. Supporting wildlife habitat conservation not only protects the health of Oregon’s rivers and diverse wildlife but also ensures that future generations of Oregonians and visitors can experience the wild, unspoiled environments that are a cherished part of Oregon’s identity.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to pass HB 2977. This bill represents a strategic investment in the environmental and economic future of Oregon—

preserving natural resources and the cherished wild experiences that are
integral to the state's legacy

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