



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2977
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

February 24, 2025

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

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2977.

HB 2977 would increase Oregon's tax on "transient lodging" (hotels and motels, Airbnbs, etc.) from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent to help fund wildlife conservation in Oregon.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2977 because it would make Oregon a better place for wildlife and people who enjoy wildlife.

Currently, wildlife conservation competes for state general funds and a portion of revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. This makes the funding unstable and leads to a focus on animals that are hunted for recreation.

A dedicated funding source for wildlife conservation would make Oregon's conservation programs more effective and allow those programs to focus on all wildlife.

Funding wildlife conservation through an increase in the transient lodging tax makes sense because a robust wildlife population is a draw for tourism, which benefits the transient lodging industry. Raising the tax by one percent would not impose an undue hardship on the transient lodging industry because the tax is currently among the lowest in the country and would remain comparatively low.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director