

Submitter: Darlene Chirman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Co-Chairs Rep Helm and Rep Owens, Vice-Chair Rep Finger McDonald, and Member of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water.

My name is Darlene Chirman, I live in Portland, and I am a retired biologist with a BS degree in Wildlife Biology and a Masters in Ecology. I support HB 2977 1% for Wildlife, which would add 1% to the state transient lodging tax (to the current 1.5%), which would be designated for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), to conserve and recover Oregon's vulnerable wildlife and habitats. Many visitors to Oregon, who pay the transients lodging tax, come to observe and enjoy our wildlife and natural areas. Most funding for the ODFW comes from hunting and fishing licenses, and is designated for management of the target species. However, consumptive recreation such as hunting and fishing is declining and non-consumptive recreation activities such as birdwatching is increasing. This legislation would provide a funding mechanism that aligns with non-consumptive recreational users. Passage of 1% for wildlife will benefit visitors' experience, Oregon residents, and especially vulnerable wildlife. I appreciate your meeting this morning, and urge you to schedule a work session and move this out of committee. Please support HB2977! Darlene Chirman