



Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Committee members,

The Oregon Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association would like to offer its support for HB 2977 that would increase the Transient Lodging Tax (TDT) by 1%. The funds generated by this modest increase would support ODFW's efforts to protect and recover Oregon's most at risk species and habitats.

According to ODFW there are about 300 species that are considered "species of greatest conservation need," meaning they face elevated risks of extinction. The agency has developed a blueprint for conserving these species and their habitats, but lacks necessary funding for its implementation. The proposed 1% increase in the TDT would generate approximately \$30 million annually in reliable funding.

ODFW's budget has long been carried on the backs of hunters and anglers. That model is not sustainable and it's time to identify other dependable sources of funding for ODFW's programs. The "1% For Wildlife" is a bold, proactive option that is long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2977.

Respectively,

Dave Schamp
CCA Oregon Chair