

Submitter:

Dustin Galipeau

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

My name is Dustin Galipeau, and I was born and raised in Bend, Oregon. Over the years, I've seen firsthand how Central Oregon has changed with increased tourism and population growth—especially from out of state. One of the most concerning changes has been the growing pressure on our fish, wildlife, and natural habitats.

I provide dead animal removal services ([deadanimalremovalbend.com](http://deadanimalremovalbend.com)) throughout Central Oregon, permitted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and I've seen a noticeable increase in the number of dead deer I'm called to remove, which is concerning given declining mule deer populations. These patterns pose dangerous risks for residents and visitors as wildlife struggle to keep up with growth, and they reflect real ecological stress—demonstrating just one example of the urgent need for targeted conservation. I also volunteer with local wildlife organizations and see just how overburdened they are. These groups are doing essential work, but they need support from ODFW.

HB 2977 is a practical, equitable solution. By slightly increasing the transient lodging tax—paid largely by tourists—we can generate sustainable funding to protect the natural resources that draw people here in the first place. Oregon doesn't have a sales tax, so this is a rare and responsible way to invest in what matters: our ecosystems, wildlife, and future generations.

This funding would directly support ODFW's ability to respond to challenges like mule deer decline, habitat loss, and wildlife conflict—issues I see every day on the ground. If we want Oregon to remain a place where people come to experience nature, we need to ensure nature is still here to experience.

I urge you to support HB 2977.