



To the House Committee on Revenue:

We are writing on behalf of the Oregon Birding Association in support of HB 2977: 1% for Wildlife. Our organization, which is celebrating its 50th year and represents over 600 active members, serves the growing and diverse community of birders across our amazing state.

As bird enthusiasts, we know that Oregon is unique for its bountiful and varied wildlife, and also that they face growing threats. Birds alone have declined by 30% in the last 50 years in North America, with an estimated loss of 3 billion birds overall.

Oregon Birding Association members travel across the state, country, and globe to enjoy the incredible diversity of birds. As such we support local economies like Burns, Jordan Valley, Medford, Newport, and La Grande by staying at hotels and visiting restaurants and gas stations on birding trips. In addition, we know that hundreds to thousands of birders visit our state each year to do the same. Two thirds of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) are paid by visitors to our state, and many of our visitors are drawn here because of our rich natural history.

Oregon prides itself on its incredible natural beauty, and ethic of conservation. Raising the TLT by 1% (which would still leave our state with the third lowest comparable tax in the nation) in order to fund the ODFW State Wildlife Action Plan strikes us as a commonsense measure to raise funding for one of our most important resources.

We urge you to support this bill and support the wildlife in our state.

Signed,

Peter Olsoy, President, Burns

Brodie Cass Talbott, Vice President, NE Portland

Rey Snyder, Secretary, Milwaukie

Spencer Parsons, Director, NE Portland

Jon Furuno, Director, SW Portland

Lorin Wilkerson, Director, Gladstone

Clara Oliverson, Director, Corvallis