

Submitter: Emily Pinkowitz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2977, a bill to secure long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats. In the current political moment, investing in state-funded stewardship for wildlife is more important than it ever has been. At the same time, increasing flooding, drought and wildfire in our state are making this stewardship even more essential.

Oregon is an incredibly special place; home to a diverse array of flora, fauna, and the habitats that support them. Unfortunately, climate change and other natural and human-made impacts put their future at risk. There are nearly 300 species of greatest conservation need and 11 habitats of conservation concern. To combat this - and ensure all species thrive in Oregon - we need bold, proactive investments in their recovery.

HB 2977 would do just that by providing a steady, sustainable source of funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity - all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Oregon's current TLT requires persons who rent overnight lodging to pay a state tax of 1.5%, a rate that is one of the lowest in the country. This bill increases the state TLT to 2.5% generating approximately \$75 million per year, \$30 million of which will go to wildlife and habitat recovery. An Oregon statewide TLT rate of 2.5% would still be one of the lowest in the country; at that rate, only Alaska, and California would be lower.

Please support "1% for Wildlife" by passing HB 2977 today.

Sincerely,

Emily Pinkowitz