

Submitter:

Claire Puchy

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 strongly support HB 2977 in order to secure long-term, dedicated funding for Oregon's fish, wildlife and habitats that have been in decline or in jeopardy. The concept in this bill is one that was discussed when I was a member of the Task Force (appointed by Governor Brown) nearly 10 years ago to find funding for so-called "nongame" species. It deserves serious consideration again.

For nearly a decade, I was the "Nongame" (and then Wildlife Diversity) Program Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (in the 1990's). At that time, it was known that species that are not hunted or fished along with their habitats did not receive adequate funding. Now, many years later, the situation is even more dire. If we are to recover imperiled species and prevent others from becoming imperiled (or extinct), a steady, sustainable source of funding must be found. Once and for all, action must be taken. HB 2977 would provide the funding so desperately needed.

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

Respectfully,

Claire A. Puchy