

Submitter: Ericka Rodriguez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2977, which proposes a modest 1% increase in Oregon's transient lodging tax, with the revenue dedicated to a conservation fund managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

This bill is critical for the protection of Oregon's threatened species and habitats. By raising the lodging tax, we can generate approximately \$30 million annually, with 65% of this funding sourced from out-of-state visitors. This approach ensures that those enjoying our beautiful state contribute to its preservation.

The additional tax would be clearly itemized as "Recovering Oregon's Wildlife," so visitors understand their dollars are directly supporting conservation efforts. This transparent contribution will help protect the very wildlife and natural landscapes that draw tourists to Oregon.

With federal funding uncertainties and recent cuts to the ODFW budget, now is the time to establish a sustainable revenue stream for wildlife conservation. HB 2977 offers a bipartisan and financially responsible solution that benefits both our environment and our economy.

Please support HB 2977 to ensure the protection of Oregon's invaluable natural heritage for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this important measure.

Sincerely, Ericka Rodriguez