

Submitter: Isami Godlove

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I was born and raised in Bend, Oregon, and moved back to Bend over 2 years ago because I wanted to be back in this special place with close access to nature, public lands, and diverse wildlife species.

I grew up fishing, hiking, and camping in Central Oregon and across the state. It wasn't until I moved away from Oregon that I realized how special it is to live in a state with beautiful landscapes and diverse fish and wildlife species.

However, even though these landscapes, public lands, and wildlife from my childhood still exist, I have noticed their decline over the years. Climate change, habitat degradation, invasive species, and other negative impacts are taking a toll on Oregon's wildlife. This is especially noticeable around the booming towns and outdoor recreation destinations of Central Oregon.

We must act now to ensure that at-risk species can survive, and once again, thrive in Oregon.

People come from all over to visit, and even move to, Oregon because of our incredible natural heritage. We stand to lose that heritage if we do not act soon.

HB 2977, "1% for Wildlife," is a bold, yet cost-effective solution to help recover our state's most vulnerable fish and wildlife species. I wholeheartedly support this important piece of legislation and hope to see it passed so that I can one day show my kids what a thriving natural ecosystem in Oregon looks like, as my parents taught me.