

Submitter:

Sue Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Thank you for taking time to hear from me today. I am a 20 year resident of central Oregon, both Bend and Sisters, one of your constituents. A big draw of this area for me has always been the natural resources, the outdoor opportunities and our healthy wildlife populations. As a veterinarian, biologist and a wildlife photographer I understand the critical importance of a healthy wildlife and wildland ecobalance for the health of our environment generally and the state of Oregon in particular. I strongly urge you to support HB 2977 !

HB2977 would raise Oregon's transient lodging tax by just 1% - still one of the lowest in the country - with all of that going to a dedicated conservation fund managed by ODFW to protect Oregon's most threatened species and habitats . The added tax would be itemized as "Recovering Oregon's Wildlife," so lodging guests would know their tourism dollars are supporting endangered fish, wildlife and habitat (the very things that draw people to Central Oregon in the first place). The 1% will potentially generate \$30 million annually, mostly from out-of-state visitors (65% of lodging stays). This is a bipartisan bill backed by ODFW, the Oregon Hunters Association, and others. As federal funding is up in the air, and the ODFW budget is cut, this is a critical time for us to secure a sustainable source of revenue to protect wildlife. Please support HB 2977, our wildlife and wildlands of Oregon need this!

Thank You for your consideration!

Sue Dougherty DVM, MA, DACVIM

Offleash Photography

Offleash Veterinary Internal Medicine

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Think Wild Central Oregon - A Nonprofit Organization

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