

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Re: HB 2977 (Funding for Conservation)

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Cain and alongside my husband Rob Klavins, we own Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast, located in Enterprise, Oregon. I am writing today in support of HB 2977, a bill that would establish dedicated, sustainable funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by raising the state transient lodging tax by 1%.

A thriving environment is critical for our state in general and for the success of our businesses specifically. Many visitors to our bed and breakfast travel from out of state to experience Northeast Oregon's natural beauty. A typical itinerary for many of our guests is a day of hiking or fishing throughout Wallowa County or birdwatching on the spectacular Zumwalt Prairie before an evening dinner at a number of restaurants in Enterprise.

It upsets me to learn that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife does not have the funding to protect and recover our state's most at-risk fish and wildlife, especially those our visitors enjoy discovering. For example, our guests enjoy observing avian species such the Olive-Sided Flycatcher and Lewis's Woodpecker. For those who love fishing, our regional waterways are home to several varieties of Bull Trout and Salmon. Regrettably, many of these species are imperiled.

HB 2977 is a step in the right direction, and the funding it would generate – via a modest increase in our state lodging tax – would directly help at-risk species. Recovering these species through this sustained funding mechanism is a prudent investment in our natural environment and the continued success of our lodging industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I encourage you to support HB 2977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Cain".

Emily Cain, Owner
Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast