

Submitter: Jon Enyart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977
Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jon Enyart, and I am submitting this testimony as a concerned Oregon resident with two decades of experience in wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary medicine. I have dedicated my career to helping injured, orphaned, and displaced native species, and I am writing today in strong support of HB 2977, the “1% for Wildlife” bill.

Oregon is home to a stunning diversity of wildlife—from migrating birds to amphibians, native pollinators, and iconic mammals. Yet these species and their habitats are facing unprecedented threats from habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and human activity. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats in critical decline. Without strategic investment, we will continue to lose the wild systems that support our environment, economy, and quality of life.

As someone who works on the frontlines of wildlife health, I see the symptoms of ecosystem failure every day—animals showing up injured because nesting areas have been bulldozed, dehydrated from prolonged drought, or orphaned due to habitat fragmentation and human encroachment. Wildlife rehabilitation can help the individual, but it is not enough. We must act at the systems level to restore balance.

HB 2977 offers a proactive, fiscally responsible path forward by securing dedicated funding through a modest increase in the statewide Transient Lodging Tax. This approach will generate an estimated \$75 million annually, with \$30 million earmarked specifically for the conservation and recovery of Oregon’s most vulnerable wildlife and habitats. It’s worth noting that the majority of this tax is paid by out-of-state visitors, and even with the proposed increase, Oregon’s lodging tax would remain among the lowest in the country.

Investing in wildlife conservation is not just an environmental issue—it is an economic one. Wildlife and outdoor recreation are major drivers of Oregon’s tourism economy. Supporting healthy ecosystems supports rural livelihoods, clean water, pollination, fire resilience, and the wild beauty that makes Oregon a place people want to live and visit.

HB 2977 is more than a tax—it’s a commitment to our state’s identity and future. I urge you to support this bill and help ensure that future generations of Oregonians

can experience the richness and diversity of Oregon's wildlife as we do today.

Thank you for your time and for your leadership on behalf of Oregon's natural heritage.

Sincerely,
Jon Enyart, DVM
Wildlife Veterinarian and Conservation Advocate