

Submitter:

Darlene Chirman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and members of the House Revenue Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2977, also known as "1% for Wildlife". I have a degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master's in Ecology, so am aware of the diverse fish and wildlife in Oregon, and the imperiled status of nearly 300 species and 11 habitats. This bill will provide secure long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has produced Oregon's Conservation Strategy—our state's wildlife action plan. Now we need an ongoing source of funding to implement the plan. Most of the department's funding is from hunting and fishing licenses, and is directed to managing the target species. We need to invest in the non-game species that comprise our diverse natural communities in Oregon.

Increasing the state Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) from 1.5% to 2.5% would raise annually about \$30 million to go to wildlife and habitat recovery. This is an appropriate source of funds, as many visitors come to Oregon to enjoy our mountains, beaches and prairies and the wildlife that inhabit them. 63% of TLT is paid by visitors from out of state. Oregon's TLT is currently lower than most other states. Oregon natural resources contribute to tourism in our state and the outdoor recreation economy.

Please support "1% for Wildlife" by passing HB 2977 at your meeting on May 8th.

Sincerely,

Darlene Chirman, Portland Oregon