

Submitter:

George B Hutchinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Please support HB 2977—The 1% for Wildlife Bill—which would increase the transient lodging tax by just 1% to provide vital funds to the Oregon Conservation Strategy, protecting vulnerable wildlife and habitats across Oregon. Wildlife is held in public trust for all Oregonians, who increasingly value their wildlife alive and thriving.? HB 2977 would allow the growing non-consumptive outdoor and wildlife-related recreation constituency to contribute vital resources to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, protecting habitats and species essential to Oregon's economy, ecosystems, and wildlife. Visitors are drawn to Oregon's exceptional wildlife and natural landscapes, fueling our tourism and wildlife-watching industries and contributing to the state's economy. Wildlife watchers are a vast and growing constituency in terms of the number of people and dollars spent in the economy, and non-consumptive users are a rapidly growing stakeholder group who provide immense economic contributions to the communities in which they visit. Also, HB 2977 would provide a way for outdoor recreationists such as hikers, skiers, campers, and bikers who travel to Oregon for our landscapes and recreational opportunities to contribute to protecting our treasured wildlife and their habitats.