



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited  
POB 740  
Gladstone, OR 97027

May 6, 2025

RE: Support for HB 2977, 1% for Wildlife.

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

On behalf of the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited and our 3000 plus Oregon members, supporters and volunteers, I am writing to you in support of HB 2977, the 1% for Wildlife bill.

We urge you to support this legislation that will secure targeted long-term funding for Oregon's threatened fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

Oregon is blessed with a variety of habitats, rain forest, marine, pine forest, riverine, alpine, steppe and desert, populated with a diversity of native wildlife and flora. Many are challenged by climate change, habitat loss and other natural and human impacts. In 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identified nearly 300 species in the state at an elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of conservation concern.

Thriving wildlife and healthy ecosystems are the essential ingredient in Oregon's outdoor economy. Travel Oregon reported that in 2019, outdoor recreation produced \$15.6 billion in total consumer spending supporting 224,000 full and part-time jobs and \$9.3 billion in wages, 2.6% of the state's GDP in a 2023 analysis. 70% of visitors cite outdoor recreation as an important factor in their decision to visit Oregon. Visitors to our state should share in supporting the natural wonders they come here to enjoy.

HB 2977 proposes to raise Oregon's statewide transient lodging tax (TLT) from 1.5% to 2.5%. The additional revenue will be directed to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation. A 1% TLT increase, it has been estimated, will generate an additional \$27.6 million annually, boosting ODFW's budget by 10%. Oregon, with no statewide sales tax, has one of the lowest lodging tax rates in the region even with the 1% proposed increase. Data from other states shows that higher lodging tax rates do not decrease spending on lodging or outdoor recreation's contribution to state GDP.

HB 2977 would provide focused and sustainable funding to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover and sustain Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats, our natural bounty that underwrites Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy and is the reason that many Oregonians live here.

Please support "1% for Wildlife" and pass HB 2977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Rogers".

Mark W. Rogers  
Chair Oregon Council