

Submitter: Kyenne Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and committee members,

As a native Oregonian, registered voter, and engaged citizen, I support HB 2977 - and I'm asking you to join me in supporting 1% for Wildlife. Why? Because this bill will secure long-term, sustainable funding for conservation and recovery of our state's most imperiled wildlife and fish species and their habitats. Why is this important? Our wildlife and their (OUR) habitat is one of Oregon's greatest draws for new citizens, visitors, and maintaining the uniqueness that makes us desirable. People come here to see the forests and mountains, hike along the coast, see native wildlife in their natural habitats, and in all honesty, they spend a lot of money to enjoy these things. The wildlife and settings are unique as well as a huge draw, supporting Oregon's thriving tourism and recreation based economies.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction in 11 habitats of conservation concern. But current state funds are regularly insufficient to fund the agency's work to address these risks. As you know, it is far more cost efficient to address threats to wildlife and habitat before species are on the brink of extinction. Without adequate, reliable and sustained funding, ODFW is often unable to effectively implement our State Wildlife Action Plan.

When you support 1% for Wildlife (HB 2977), you vote to provide exactly what is needed: a reliable, sustained, long-term funding source, not vulnerable to the vagaries of the biennial general fund allocation process. Please support this common-sense approach to ensuring ODFW has the funds it needs to conserve and recover Oregon's most threatened wildlife, fish and their habitats for this and future generations.

Sincerely,
Kyenne Williams