

Submitter:

Brook Harris

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon House Bill 2977, a critical piece of legislation aimed at protecting Oregon's invaluable natural heritage. It is evident that HB 2977 is not just a legislative necessity but a moral imperative to ensure the preservation of our state's ecological integrity for future generations.

Oregon is home to diverse ecosystems, ranging from ancient forests and rugged coastlines to pristine rivers and high desert landscapes. These natural treasures are essential not only for the countless species that inhabit them but also for the well-being of Oregonians who rely on these environments for clean air, water, recreation, and economic livelihood. HB 2977 strategically addresses threats to these ecosystems, including habitat destruction, climate change, and unsustainable resource extraction practices.

One of the key talking points is the bill's focus on safeguarding Oregon's ancient forests. These forests are irreplaceable carbon sinks, playing a significant role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. By protecting these areas from logging and degradation, HB 2977 not only preserves biodiversity but also contributes to Oregon's climate resilience goals.

Moreover, HB 2977 promotes the protection of critical wildlife corridors, ensuring that species such as the gray wolf, elk, and other native wildlife can thrive. Connectivity between habitats is vital for genetic diversity and species adaptation, particularly in the face of a changing climate.

Economic considerations also underscore the importance of this bill. Oregon's natural beauty attracts millions of visitors annually, supporting local businesses and communities through eco-tourism and recreation. Healthy ecosystems contribute to sustainable industries, including fisheries, agriculture, and outdoor recreation sectors, which are vital to Oregon's economy.

Passing HB 2977 signifies Oregon's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. It aligns with the values of countless Oregonians who cherish the natural landscapes that define our state's identity. I urge you to support this critical legislation, ensuring that Oregon's wild places remain protected and revered for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.