

Submitter: Grace Brahler

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,

Please support HB 2977, 1% for Wildlife, so that our state secures long-term, sustainable funding for conservation and recovery of our state's most imperiled wildlife and fish species and their habitats.

Since moving here for grad school nearly a decade ago, I've gotten to know and love Oregon through hiking in our old-growth forests, whale watching on the coast, and rafting the McKenzie and Rogue rivers. Each outing, I learn more about Oregon's incredible diversity of flora and fauna and am in continued awe of the place I get to call home. Whenever friends and family come to visit, we share the beauty of Oregon's unique landscapes and species by getting out into the woods or onto the river. Last summer, I got to take my cousin hiking for the first time and before he left he was already dreaming up trips to come back to raft, hike, and ski.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction in 11 habitats of conservation concern, yet the agency lacks the funds to address these risks. It is far more cost efficient and effective to address threats to wildlife and habitat now, before species are on the brink of extinction. Without adequate, reliable and sustained funding, ODFW is often unable to effectively implement the State Wildlife Action Plan. I support HB 2977 because it will provide a reliable, sustained, long-term funding source so ODFW can implement the plan and conserve and recover Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitat.

Please support this common-sense approach to ensure ODFW has the funds it needs to conserve and recover Oregon's most threatened wildlife, fish and their habitats for this and future generations. They are a huge draw to me and so many others, supporting Oregon's thriving tourism and recreation industries. As the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss intensify, we must invest in proactive solutions to protect our ecosystems and the species that rely on them. Please vote yes on 1% for Wildlife.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Grace Brahler