



May 8, 2025

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon Legislative

Re: In Support of Wildlife, HB 2977

Dear Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members:


For the record, my name is Roger Worthington and I own and operate Worthy Brewing in Bend, Oregon.

As a host for visitors and locals alike at our two brewery restaurants, I support 1% for Wildlife, HB 2977, because I have seen the clear benefit to the visitor economy of investing in and protecting our wild environment. Raising the statewide transient lodging tax and directing that investment to imperiled animals has a direct connection to why people visit Central Oregon, spend money in our communities, and enjoy the place. Thriving populations of wild animals from native fish to the elusive wolverine and health habitats for these creatures draw people to the Bend area.

It is not just my observation; Williamson and Haggerty (2025) demonstrate that Oregon has among the lowest lodging tax rates in the country. States that have higher rates generate more business, generate more revenue, and have a much higher level of investment in the year-round attractions of natural infrastructure like healthy forests, clean rivers, untracked deserts, and clear air.

Thank you for supporting 1% for Wildlife. Your wise investment matters to people and to the creatures who find Oregon home.

Respectfully,


Roger Worthington
Worthy Brewing, Bend Oregon