

Submitter:

Gail Battaglia

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

Habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species, and other natural and human-made impacts are taking a toll on Oregon's birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bees. 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.

Unfortunately, current state funds available for implementing wildlife conservation programs are only a small fraction of what is needed to recover our state's most at-risk species. The agency tasked with overseeing critical restoration actions, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been woefully underfunded to address these growing challenges.

"1% for Wildlife" is a bold, proactive solution that will help recover at-risk species now – a more efficient and cost-effective path forward rather than waiting until species are on the brink of extinction.

The ability to effectively implement Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan is crucial for the health of Oregon's diverse ecosystems and wildlife populations, clean water, food security, and outdoor recreation economy.

Healthy abundant wildlife and ecosystems are an important part of Oregon's thriving - tourism industry. Outdoor recreation supports \$15.6 billion in total consumer spending supporting 224,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon and \$9.3 billion in wages (1). Specifically:

- *Oregon's hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching activities have accounted for \$1.2 billion in spending and have supported over 11,000 jobs in recent years (2).

Additionally, these activities generated \$385 million in labor income and \$51 million in state and local taxes (3).

- *Non-consumptive use, such as nature, wildlife, forest, and wildflower observations, accounts for \$939 million of total spending (4).

Please vote in support of this bill

Sincerely,

Roarke Ball

Gail Battaglia

Jacksonville, OR