



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

Date: May 8, 2025
To: House Committee on Revenue
Subject: Support HB 2977, 1% for Wildlife

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Werner Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee,

We write in support of HB 2977 on behalf of 350PDX, a grassroots climate and environmental organization with thousands of members in the Portland area.

Oregon animals, birds, fish—and even insects—are an important part of the ecosystems we share in our beautiful state. We need other species to be healthy in order to help maintain our state's clean air, pure water, and pleasant climate. Yet a decade ago, 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. Since that time, Oregon has struggled to meet the needs of these species and habitats due to lack of funding.

HB 2977 would help solve this problem. With a 1% increase in the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT), Oregon would be able to generate approximately \$30 million per year to help conserve Oregon wildlife. By beginning this process now instead of when these species are closer to the brink of extinction, we can lower the long-term economic burden and aid our Oregon wildlife more quickly. Since the largest percentage of payers of this tax would be out-of-state visitors, they would be contributing to conserving the beautiful Oregon wildlife that is a large part of our tourist economy. This 1% addition is not even that grand of an ask, as this is still one of the lowest TLT (only above Alaska and California).¹

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is severely underfunded; HB 2977's 1% TLT increase can begin to cover the gap.

We urge you to support HB 2977 and create a fund to keep our beautiful Oregon wildlife and habitats strong and healthy, and in so doing to contribute to the health and flourishing of all Oregonians.

Charlie Welling
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¹ Transient Lodging Tax, Oregon Department of Revenue,
<https://www.oregon.gov/DOR/programs/businesses/Pages/lodging.aspx>, 6.