

Submitter: Karsyn Kendrick  
On Behalf Of: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I would like to share our support for H.B. 2977. The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) is a membership organization representing 32 land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and conservation organizations working across Oregon to protect our habitat and natural spaces – for all people, forever. Collectively, our members have protected more than 782,000 acres of land across our state.

H.B. 2977 would increase the state transient lodging tax from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent and dedicate the new funds (~\$30 million per year) to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy and leveraging federal funds for wildlife and habitat recovery. At 2.5 percent, Oregon's state transient lodging tax would still remain one of the lowest in the country.

With all of the cuts this session to natural resource programs and priorities, this funding would boost ongoing conservation at ODFW and support vulnerable species and the habitats on which they rely. We urge this Committee to support H.B. 2977 and thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Karsyn Kendrick  
Conservation Director  
Coalition of Oregon Land Trust