



Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

June 23, 2025

TO: Senate Rules Committee

FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2977

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 2977 during these final days of the legislative session. Because a longer support letter is already on the record (2/24/2025) we just wanted to make two points here.

First, this change to the Transient Lodging Tax is different than HB 3962 – which changes the division of *local* TLT taxes. HB 2977 raises the *statewide* tax to help pay for wildlife recovery, conservation and stewardship. The tax is applied equally around the state and goes directly to statewide causes, it does not alter local taxes.

Second, elements of Oregon's wildlife and environment are what brings tourists to Oregon, so it only makes sense that tourism money be used to protect species and their habitat statewide. From the whales on the coast, to the salmon in our mountain streams, to the black-necked stilt in eastern Oregon, our state has much to show off, but much to safeguard. Fortunately, the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan helps us conserve and protect those species and would directly benefit from those dollars.

We urge your support of HB 2977.

Sincerely,

[Board of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#)

[ORTWS Conservation Affairs Committee](#)