

Submitter: Regina Asmutis-Silvia
On Behalf Of: Whale and Dolphin Conservation North America
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Whale and Dolphin Conservation, North America is writing in support of the passage of Bill HB 2977. Outdoor recreation is a primary driver for tourism in Oregon, bringing in billions of dollars in revenue each year. The economic benefits of ensuring that the very species and habitats driving tourism in the state are maintained, should be sufficient incentive to pass this bill. In addition, the benefits this bill brings to coastal and marine resilience, particularly to endangered Southern Resident Orca, must not be dismissed. Southern Resident Orca are protected under Oregon's endangered species act. This culturally and genetically distinct population of orca are impacted by both marine and land based management decisions. HB 2977 provides an opportunity to ensure land based conservation programs designed to minimize sediment and pollution runoff as well as support healthy river ecosystems can be implemented, benefiting both terrestrial and marine species. As such, we strongly support the passage of this bill.