

Submitter: Micah Meskel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

My name is Micah Meskel and I'm a resident of Milwaukie, Oregon in House District 21 and Senate District 41

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham and committee members

I Urge you all to support HB 2977 A today, and move the bill to the full senate where I hope you vote to pass it.

This would be a monumental moment for our state's wildlife and wildlife places, and help maintain and grow one of the state's most significant tourist draws while providing a boost for local economies.

It received bipartisan support in the house, and I hope you can help pass it through the senate.

This bill would be a game changer in this space, providing ~\$30 million annually towards wildlife and nature investments while maintaining one of the lowest transient lodging tax rates in the nation. I'm excited to see the funds used for;

Creating a wildlife stewardship program to educate the public on wildlife and on resolving wildlife conflicts

Establishing a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers

Bolstering anti-poaching and invasive species management across the state.

Providing needed funds into the Oregon Conservation and Recreation fund for wildlife conservation.

And many other worthwhile initiatives

I'm really excited about what this could mean for my district both for conservation and connecting more people to nature in positive ways.

For Senator Jama's district I'm excited about the investments it could bring to - Powell Butte, Johnson Creek, and along the Clackamas River both for the enjoyment of your constituents and for driving more tourism to those communities.

For Senator Bonham's district - It could support a variety of tourist draws on Mt. Hood and Columbia River Gorge and could support the important services that Rowena Wildlife Clinic provides the community.

For Senator Golden's district - It could help sustain the wildlife resources surrounding

the Cascade Siskiyou.

For Senator Manning's district - It could help support restoration of habitat along Willamette and Mackenzie Rivers, Fern Ridge Reservoir, and sustain the great work that Cascade Raptor Center does on wildlife coexistence education.

For Senator Thatcher's district - It could help improve fish habitat along the Willamette River Greenway.

I urge you to pass HB 2977 out of committee and vote yes on the Senate Floor when it comes to a vote.

Thank you