

Submitter:

Andy Baltensperger

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

As a Wildlife Biologist who researches understudied, non-game species and wildlife connectivity in at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, I wholeheartedly support this bill and all of the state wildlife conservation programs it funds. Not only is this funding crucial for the health and persistence of a diversity of wildlife species in Oregon, it would help improve public safety by reducing wildlife/vehicle collisions while also helping to defuse conflict between ranchers and carnivores via depredation compensation. Eastern Oregon contains 2 areas with the highest per capita wildlife/vehicle collisions in the state and funding from this bill will aid in the development of a series of wildlife crossing structures to reduce collisions and improve motor safety in the region. Furthermore this bill provides countless jobs in wildlife and habitat research, recreation, tourism, wildlife enforcement, and land management across numerous state agencies, universities and other entities. This state funding is especially crucial to maintain in this time of federal uncertainty as the current administration does not value wildlife conservation. I strongly encourage you to support this bill to continue fiscal certainty for the conservation of wildlife, improvement of motor safety, and continued support for wildlife related jobs in Oregon.