

Submitter:

Debra Merskin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

We are in the final stretches of doing some of the most important, the most significant, wildlife conservation bills in decades: HB 2977. By raising Oregon's statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25 percentage points, crucial funding will be available for wildlife stewardship programs, wildlife connectivity programs, state police anti-poaching efforts, and the wildlife stewardship funding, which would provide \$200k grants to wildlife centers in Oregon. Oregon can make a loud and clear statement that we care about our wild lands, want them available and protected for many groups with many interests, and represents a reinvestment in Oregon's tourism. Stable funding from this addresses diverse stakeholder groups, doesn't change the state's low tax ranking, and is the product of bipartisan support. Please support this bill.