

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Dara Evans. I am currently a law student at the University of Oregon living in Eugene, and I'm here in support of House Bill 2977 – the 1% for Wildlife bill.

I moved to Oregon a few years ago to pursue a higher education – it was a pretty big change from the dry and sunny Southern California I had lived in, and so I always get questioned by friends and family about how I like the change and what all I get up to in the great Pacific Northwest. I usually whip out my phone and show everybody pictures as I talk about the kinds of adventures I've been on: hikes, waterfalls, river rafting, coastal visits, and scenic drives. And I always get asked the same thing: can we do *that* when we visit you?

People come and visit Oregon for the wildlife and their habitats– the trees, mountains, rivers, lakes, and all the native animals who also call this place home. The greatest draw to this state is also its greatest treasure, and it's important to step up and do our job of protecting that. This bill is a proactive solution to not just a climate problem, but to a tourism issue. Forget about hotel prices, no one will stay here if there are no thriving wildlife habitats remaining – be it old-growth forests or wild rivers. Support of this bill means supporting a low-cost, long-term investment into what makes this state so wonderful.

Please, vote in support of House Bill 2977 – it is critical, now more than ever, to show up and show out and protect our wildlife before it is too late. Thank you for your time.