



David Herasimtschuk

# Support HB 2977

Oregon’s most significant wildlife conservation victory in decades nears passage, a historic action to protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife.

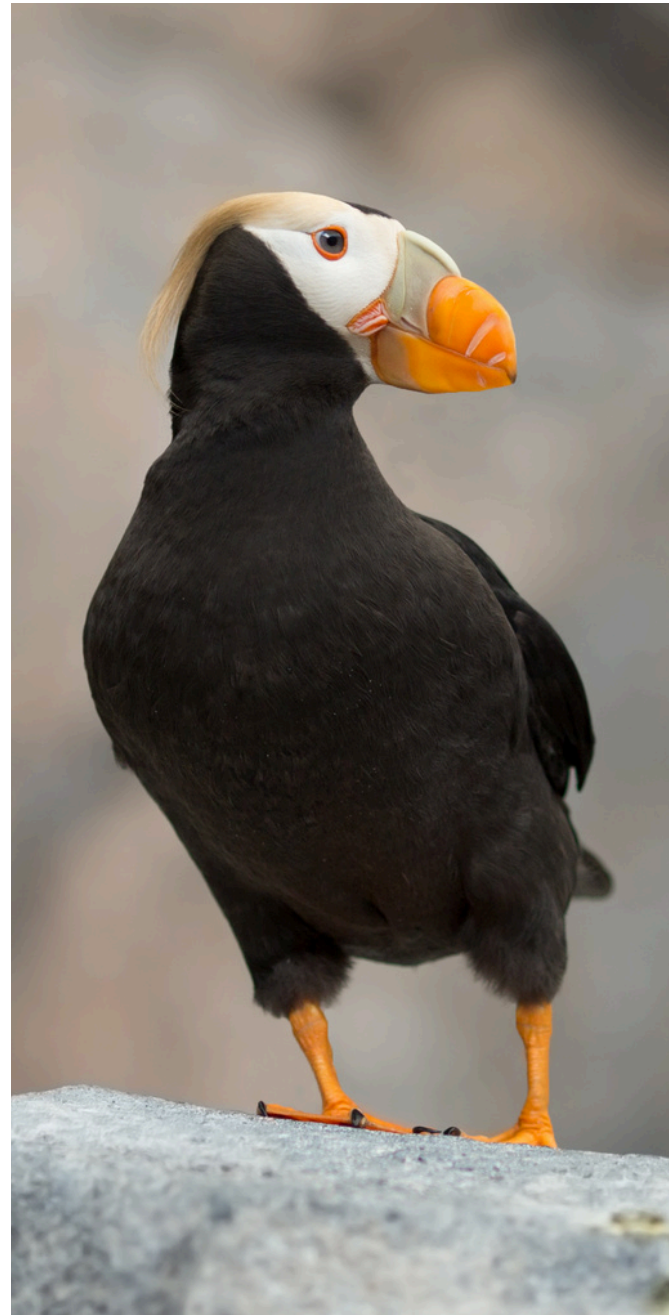
## What This Bill Does

By raising Oregon’s statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25 percentage points, this bill funds:

<b>Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan</b> <i>Oregon’s blueprint to protect and recover our imperiled species and habitats</i>	<b>Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program</b> <i>Resources can help reduce conflict and improve coexistence with wolves</i>
<b>Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund</b> <i>Engaging communities in the outdoors and conservation projects across the state</i>	<b>Invasive Species Response</b> <i>Addressing chronic gaps in detection and removal of harmful invasive species</i>
<b>ODFW’s Wildlife Connectivity Program</b> <i>Supporting wildlife passage and overcoming habitat fragmentation</i>	<b>Wildlife Stewardship Program</b> <i>Supporting wildlife rehabilitation facilities and other stewardship priorities</i>
<b>Dep’t of Justice Anti-Poaching Efforts</b> <i>Stabilizing existing DOJ capacity to address poaching and similar violations</i>	<b>State Police Anti-Poaching Efforts</b> <i>Supporting fish and wildlife officers as the front line against illegal poaching</i>

# Why Legislators Should Support the Bill

- **Effective and Statewide** – Approximately \$80 million per biennium invested in effective conservation work across every legislative district.
- **Solves a Longstanding Problem** – Efforts to fund these programs extend back many years.
- **Bipartisan Support** – HB 2977 is the product of a large, bipartisan effort to sustainably fund a range of important programs.
- **Diverse Stakeholder Support** – This bill is widely supported by a diverse group of stakeholders with a presence in all parts of Oregon.
- **Establish Stable Funding** – This bill would make these programs more resilient in an uncertain funding environment.
- **Reinvestment in Oregon's Tourism** – This bill would reinvest in our natural resources, a major draw for out-of-state tourists, which helps attract more visitors ("if you build it, they will come").
- **Not a Cost-of-Living Increase** – The majority of those who pay the tax are visitors from other states and countries.
- **Doesn't Change Low Tax Ranking** – Oregon has the 3rd lowest state TLT rate out of all 50 states and raising the rate by 1.25 percentage points would not change that ranking. Even considering local TLT rates, Oregon's communities are still below – or significantly below – similarly situated out-of-state communities.



**Passing HB 2977 would be a monumental win for Oregon's iconic fish, wildlife, and habitat!**