

Submitter:

Dustin Galipeau

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

My name is Dustin Galipeau, and I was born and raised in Bend, Oregon. Over the years, I've watched my hometown grow from a quiet, nature-centered community into a popular destination for visitors from around the country. Tourism has brought economic opportunity, but it has also put significant strain on our natural resources and wildlife. I've seen trails that were once peaceful become crowded and overused. Wildlife that used to be common near town, deer, birds, and small mammals, are now harder to spot, pushed farther out by development and human activity. These changes are real and visible, and without investment in conservation, they will only get worse.

That's why I support HB 2977. This bill creates a fair, reliable funding source for wildlife conservation and habitat restoration, ensuring that those who visit Oregon's natural areas contribute to protecting them. It doesn't raise the cost of living for Oregonians, but instead invests in the long-term health of our ecosystems and the sustainability of our outdoor economy. Restoration projects, public education, and habitat protection are all urgently needed, especially in high-use areas like Central Oregon. I urge you to support HB 2977 so that future generations can enjoy the same wildlife and wild places that helped shape my life here.