

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Quinn Read

Date: June 24, 2025

Re: Testimony in support of HB 2977

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Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham and members of the committee:

My name is Quinn Read and I am writing to voice my strong support for HB 2977 A, which will provide urgently needed funding to protect Oregon's imperiled wildlife and wild places. I am an Oregonian who cares deeply about wildlife. Before I moved here, I traveled frequently to Oregon to enjoy its incredible natural legacy. Abundant opportunities to play in the outdoors ultimately brought me here to make a home and start my family. Although I'm writing today as a concerned citizen, I also serve as Executive Director for Oregon Wild. For more details, I refer you to testimony submitted by Danielle Moser on behalf of Oregon Wild.

Nature and wildlife drew me to Oregon – first as a visitor, and then permanently. I know I'm not the only one. Unfortunately, the state has never identified long-term, dedicated funding to recover imperiled species and the habitats they depend upon. Our state is home to hundreds of vulnerable species whose populations have continued to decline. Federal funding cuts only make this situation more dire.

HB 2977 is the result of over a decade of work to provide resources to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund wildlife conservation and habitat restoration. But it also supports communities and our growing recreation economy – hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, and camping all rely on healthy ecosystems and abundant wildlife. This timely and common sense bill provides the kind of adequate and stable funding Oregon needs.

I'm thrilled to see so much bipartisan and statewide support for this bill, which speaks to how effectively it addresses concerns and priorities of communities across the state. Please make history for Oregon – for its wildlife, its habitats, and its people – and vote yes on HB 2977.