



June 25, 2025

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Rules

Re: Trout Unlimited Supports House Bill 2977 A (Funding for ODFW Conservation Strategy)

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a non-profit dedicated to conserving coldwater fish such as trout, salmon, and steelhead, and their habitats. TU has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including thousands of members in Oregon.

TU supports HB 2977 A, which nominally increases the state transient lodging tax (TLT) and directs that revenue toward funding the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) species conservation strategies.

HB 2977 A would materially increase ODFW's capacity to implement the state's species conservation strategies (the "Oregon Conservation Strategy" and "Oregon Nearshore Strategy" and subsequent iterations) by nominally increasing the amount that guests pay for lodging in Oregon. There is a close nexus between travel and tourism in Oregon and our state's fish and wildlife species; many people visit our beautiful state to fish, hunt, birdwatch, backpack, etc.

TU supports HB 2977 A because it would provide additional (and desperately-needed) funding for conserving Oregon anglers' most beloved fish species: Chinook salmon, coho Salmon, steelhead, and trout. Salmon and trout are important resources that contribute to Oregon's economy and traditions. We also support the bill because it will fund efforts to maintain and restore functioning habitats in Oregon that serve many other non-game fish and wildlife species.

HB 2977 A received bipartisan support in its June 20th House Floor vote. TU asks that you support it too.

Thank you for considering this input and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Fraser
Oregon Policy Director
Trout Unlimited
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