

Submitter: Julia May

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I am writing in support of HB 2977. Our shared, precious, natural spaces and resources are under attack and it is important now, more than ever, to support funding for environmental conservation efforts.

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.

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

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.