

Submitter:

SARAH SWANSON

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

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

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2977, a bill to secure long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats.

As a fifth-generation Oregonian, I know that our state is an incredibly special place; home to diverse plants, animals, and the vital habitats that support them. Unfortunately, climate change and other natural and human-made impacts put their future at risk.

There are nearly 300 species of greatest conservation need and 11 habitats of conservation concern in Oregon. To protect them – and ensure that all species thrive in Oregon – we need bold, proactive investments in their recovery. This bill also allocates funds for wildlife stewardship, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity and invasive species control – which are all necessary to conserve the species that are part of Oregon's beloved ecosystems.

HB 2977 would do just that by providing a steady, sustainable source of funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity – all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Other states have dedicated funding sources for conservation of non-game wildlife and it is time for Oregon to have one as well.

Please support HB 2977 today.

Sincerely,

Sarah Swanson