

Submitter:

Amy Nash-Kille

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

I am writing in support of HB 2977 to fund wildlife conservation and environmental restoration in Oregon. Without consistent funding, we may lose 300 species of greatest need and 11 habitats of conservation concern in Oregon. It is up to us to speak for the trees and the birds and other living creatures who have no voices of their own. This bill will help us recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats. It will also allocate funds for wildlife stewardship, anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity, and invasive species control. Economic analyses have found that a lodging tax increase of 1.25% would have no impact on tourism spending of recreation's contribution to our state GDP based on evidence from comparable states. Oregon would also maintain the 3rd lowest lodging tax rates in the country, even after the increase. The bulk of the lodging tax revenue would come from out-of-state visitors (63%). Passing HB 2977 will help preserve the natural resources and wildlife that make Oregon special, ensuring that our wild places remain home to diverse species as well as remaining attractive places for tourism and outdoor recreation for generations to come.