

Submitter: Preena Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 2977, which proposes an increase in Oregon's state transient lodging tax to support species conservation efforts.

While I fully support the goal of protecting Oregon's wildlife and natural habitats, I am concerned that raising the lodging tax places an undue burden on our tourism industry, small business owners, and travelers. Oregon's hospitality sector is still recovering from the economic impacts of recent years, and additional taxes could discourage visitors, reduce overnight stays, and ultimately harm the very communities that rely on tourism for their livelihoods.

Moreover, increasing the lodging tax may disproportionately affect rural areas and small towns that depend on seasonal tourism. These communities often lack the resources to absorb the financial impact of reduced visitor spending.

I urge you to consider alternative funding mechanisms that do not place the burden solely on travelers and the hospitality industry. Conservation is a shared responsibility, and its funding should reflect a more balanced and equitable approach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Preena Patel
A-1 Hospitality Group