



To: Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR
Date: June 24, 2025

Sub: Testimony in support of HB 2977

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

For the record, my name is Eliza Walton. I am the coalition director at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2977. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, I would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters' and the Oregon Conservation Network's support of HB 2977.

HB 2977 would utilize a 1.00% increase in the state transient lodging tax to generate approximately \$30 million a year for proactive, collaborative wildlife and habitat conservation. The bill would also utilize an additional .25% increase in the state transient lodging tax to fund critical conservation initiatives such as the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, ODFW's Wildlife Connectivity Program, the Department of Justice and Oregon State Police Anti-Poaching Programs and Department of Agriculture's Invasive Species Program. HB 2977 would also sustainably invest in a Wildlife Stewardship Program, creating three wildlife coexistence positions throughout Oregon and establishing and investing in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program, which was a special focus of OLCV this session.

This is a once in a more than decade opportunity to ensure that these critical programs are funded with ongoing funds that are not coming from a cost of living increase.

Please vote yes on HB 2977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
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