

Submitter:

Lora Worden

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

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

My friends and family base their travel plans around the incredible beauty that our state has to offer-- whether that's a trip to the coast to tide pool, bird watch, and swim or a trip to the mountains to hike, or a trip to eastern oregon to see the incredible flora and fauna that is so different from where we live.

This incredible beauty spans diverse habitats home to stunning wildlife that draws travelers both from within our state and from far beyond. To have a way for nature lovers to protect the very environment that draws them here is a win-win, which is why 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.

Oregon is an incredibly special place: people come here to whale watch, to fish, to enjoy the incredible food and drink that is grown here, to hike, to ski and wind surf, and to relax and enjoy the natural beauty that is unique to our state. We are blessed to have diverse array of flora, fauna, and the habitats that support them. Unfortunately, climate change and other natural and human-made impacts put their future at risk. If we want to be able to enjoy this beauty, then we need to protect it.

HB 2977 allocates funds for wildlife stewardship, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity and invasive species control – which further bolster wildlife conservation in the state. It is because of initiatives like this, and the hard work of people across our state, that we have salmon in Johnson Creek again, that we can spot a tufted puffin on the Oregon Coast, listen for the squeak of a Pika in the Gorge, and glimpse Leona's Blue Butterfly east of Crater Lake.

Please support HB 2977 so that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has a steady, sustainable source of funds to pay local scientists and nature lovers in their efforts to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity – all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

This bill helps protect what makes our state special. Please support HB 2977 today.

Sincerely,

Lora Lyn Worden