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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I was born and raised in Oregon, and it has become a pale version of the place I inhabited as a child. My generation remembers the slow, local migrations of salamanders, but I can't remember the last time I saw one of these strange creatures (and I'm outside a lot). In spring, run-over possums were so plentiful they were the butt of jokes, but I guess we ran them all over, because I haven't seen their beady eyes for many years. We remember colorful tidepools, teeming with life, and we avoid discussing our memories near the happy children investigating the last few, pathetic sea stars near Haystack Rock.

When I was a child, humans were short-sighted gluttons at the buffet of creation.

Now, that we understand more about the fragility of ecosystems, we need to do better, to recognize we have the power but not the right to spoil so much.

Degradation is not inevitable, it is a choice we are continually making. It is past time to prioritize the well-being of all life, to protect wildlife and habitats. This will be inconvenient and it will cost us money, but our health and future depend upon it.