

Submitter: KB Mercer

On Behalf Of: Myself and my husband

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB3159

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, and Members of the Committee;

My name is KB Mercer, and my husband David Huffman and I live in Portland, Oregon.

We care deeply about wildlife. We believe that more needs to be done to protect wildlife as humans increasingly threaten their existence.

We spend a lot of time, money and energy figuring out how to help humans cope with climate change, pollution, and housing, but we barely give the poor animals an afterthought. It is disgraceful.

HB 3159 would utilize a 1.5% increase to the state transient lodging tax (TLT) to generate money for critical programs to help wildlife. Even with this increase, Oregon would still have the fourth-lowest state TLT in the country. However, the benefits for our state's mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, pollinators and their habitats would be substantial and literally, life changing.

Do the right thing and pass HB 3159.

It is, literally, the LEAST we can do.

Thank you;

KB Mercer and David Huffman
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