

Submitter: Nikki Dennis

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3159

As we experience the Sixth Mass Extinction, it is critical that the Oregon Legislature prioritize wildlife and their ecosystems before it is too late. It is my understanding that HB 3159

will utilize a 1.5% increase to the state transient lodging tax (TLT) to generate money for critical programs that are currently underfunded . 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. I am a passionate animal rights supporter and voter who expects our representatives to represent all Oregonians - human and nonhuman alike. Diverse wildlife, functioning ecosystems, green spaces, tree canopies, and natural beauty where both people and animals can thrive are often highlighted as what most Oregonians and Oregon visitors cherish. This cannot be accomplished without realization of the important role the Oregon Legislature has in ensuring biodiversity in Oregon is truly valued and the actions that must be taken to make it happen.