

Submitter: Donna Harris

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3159

Please support HB 3159 to increase the transient room tax to support wildlife. I live in Deschutes Co. which recently passed the Wildlife Inventory Update adding hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat for our mule deer, populations of which unfortunately are only at less than 50% sustainability. The Update also increases habitat for elk. Later the county will address habitat protections for golden and bald eagles. I have not only been involved in a mule deer advocacy group but multiple other conservation groups advocating for habitat protections for wildlife. Restoring habitat , while increasing connectivity for deer and elk migration corridors , is critical to stabilizing these populations. Improving their habitat, reducing threats from noxious weeds, recreation disturbance, supporting wildlife crossings, and allowing for wildlife friendly fencing are all methods that are needed now and should no longer be delayed. Funds for accomplishing these goals are critical to sustain populations of wildlife threatened in our state.