

Submitter: Michele Frisella

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3159

I request the Committee support HB 3159 - Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund.

I am a former seasonal Crater Lake National Park Ranger and Mt Hood National Forest fire lookout. I have been fortunate to spend so much time over the decades hiking, backpacking, and camping throughout the state of Oregon. Wildlife viewing is ALWAYS the focus of my outdoor activities from the coast to the Owyhee. I volunteer conducting wildlife surveys and at an Oregon wildlife refuge.

Oregon's wildlife draw eco-tourists to our state; to see whales, wolves, eagles, sandhill cranes, pikas, and pronghorn. Most of the country does is not home to all of these animals that make their homes in Oregon. Eco-tourism is an important economy to rural Oregon communities that host Oregonians and visitors from out-of-state who come to see our wildlife. The lodging tax is a small cost to all visitors, Oregonians and non-Oregonians, that visit the state.

Oregon must do what it can to support the health and vitality of the various ecosystems' plants and wildlife throughout the state.

Thank you for your attention.