

Submitter: Hillary Tiefer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

We must consider our legacy to future generations and support HB 2977, “1% for Wildlife”. So much of wildlife has already been destroyed and many species have gone extinct. According to the Oregon Wildlife Coalition, “Habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species, and other natural and human-made impacts are taking a toll on Oregon's birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bees. In 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identified nearly 300 species in the state at an elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of conservation concern.” The Oregon Wildlife Coalition also points out that “The agency tasked with overseeing critical restoration actions, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been woefully underfunded to address these growing challenges.”

The “1% for Wildlife” is funding that will conserve and recover Oregon’s most vulnerable wildlife and habitats. “1% for Wildlife” will help recover at-risk species now—“a more efficient and cost-effective way forward” rather than risking species becoming extinct.

The HB2977 benefits humans as well: tourists come to these natural habitats to enjoy the beautiful outdoors, and will inevitably help local economies. According to the Oregon Wildlife Coalition “Outdoor recreation supports \$15.6 billion in total consumer spending supporting 224,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon and \$9.3 billion in wages.” The coalition also points out that “The ability to effectively implement Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan is crucial for the health of Oregon’s diverse ecosystems and wildlife populations, clean water, food security, and outdoor recreation economy.”

Please support HB 2977 “1% for Wildlife.” We owe this support to the wildlife in this state and to the state’s human residences and those who reside and visit here in the future.

Sincerely,
Hillary Tiefer