



Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter #196

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<http://www.bluebackstu.org>

May 7, 2025

House Committee on Revenue

Re: Support of HB2977 (1% for Wildlife Bill)

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national organization dedicated to caring for rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Our chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Bluebacks, has several hundred members in the Mid-Willamette Valley from Salem to Eugene, and from the Cascades to the ocean. As volunteers we conduct anadromous fish surveys on the North Santiam and the Luckiamute Rivers, monitor water chemistry in Corvallis area streams, annually clean trash from the South Santiam River, and participate in youth education about salmonids (i.e., Linn-Benton Salmon Watch, Clackamas Chapter Youth Flyfishing Camps).

The Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited SUPPORTS House Bill 2977, 1% for Wildlife.

We support dedicated funding to prevent the decline of Oregon's most imperiled fish and wildlife and the habitats they rely upon. HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife" –secures sustainable funding for the implementation of Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), known as the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy. "1% for Wildlife" proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% in order to invest in the conservation and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitats.

"1% for Wildlife," is a bold solution that will directly help at-risk species and habitats. The increase to Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide a steady, sustainable source of funds to ODFW to conserve and recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

The Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited urges you to pass HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife" to conserve and sustain Oregon's natural heritage.

Thank you for considering our input. Please contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Frederick Colwell, current President

Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chapter #196

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