

Submitter: Dolores Judkins  
On Behalf Of: HB 2977  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I am fully in favor of HB 2977!

As a native Oregonian, I have always taken great pride in our state; the beauty and the diversity, not only of the terrain, but also of the plants and animals. Unfortunately, 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.

Here in Oregon, there are 294 at-risk species that are considered 'species of greatest conservation need'. Without proactive action, Oregon stands to lose our treasured natural heritage.

When Oregon created a blueprint for recovering our most vulnerable and imperiled species known as the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy the goals were to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible. Unfortunately, this Conservation Strategy has lacked the necessary resources and funds to fully implement the recommended conservation actions.

HB 2977, "1% for Wildlife" proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5%, to combat the biodiversity crisis, by investing in the conservation and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitat. This would generate approximately \$30 million a year for proactive wildlife and habitat conservation. This cost-effective solution would help recover our state's most vulnerable fish and wildlife.

I ask that you please help Oregon remain the wonderful place it is by supporting HB 2977.