

Submitter: Paula Thonney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Visitors flock to Oregon from across the country and around the globe, often coming specifically because of our beautiful habitat and unique wildlife, including to whale watch on the coast, go birding at our wildlife refuges, raft our rivers or hike in our old-growth forests. HB 2977 will ensure that these visitors contribute to the conservation of the very wildlife and habitats they come to see.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of conservation concern. But current state funds are regularly insufficient to fund the agency's work to address these risks. As you know, it is far more cost efficient to address threats to wildlife and habitat before species are on the brink of extinction. Without adequate, sustained and reliable funding, ODFW is often unable to effectively implement our State Wildlife Action Plan.