

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Morshead. I am a rising third year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law, and I live in Eugene, OR. I moved here in 2023 to pursue my law degree with a focus on environmental public interest law. I am here in support of the 1% for Wildlife bill.

As someone who cares deeply about the integrity and well-being of wildlife and the habitats where they live, this bill has the unique opportunity to bolster conservation efforts in the state of Oregon. The reason I chose to move to Oregon for school, and why I plan to stay here after I graduate, is because I align deeply with many of Oregon's priorities to emphasize environmentalism, including the protection of wildlife species.

This bill would, in the long run, contribute to the long-term prosperity of Oregon's tourism industry. People, myself included, come to the state to visit the natural wonders Oregon has to offer. Having the chance to see a whale on the coast or spot a native bird on a hike to one of the state's many waterfalls is what draws people here for tourism purposes.

This bill will directly contribute to the conservation of these species so that this type of outdoor tourism can continue. I know that outdoor enthusiasts and tourists alike would be more than happy to contribute a few extra dollars in lodging expenses to fund wildlife protection that secures invaluable experiences in the outdoors for generations to come. Consequently, I wholeheartedly urge you to vote in support of HB 2977 - the 1% for Wildlife bill. Thank you.