

Submitter: Carrie Cooke  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

To the Senate Committee On Rules:

I'm submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2977 which increases the state transient lodging tax 1% to support efforts for the conservation and recovery for Oregon's threatened species and habitats. This modest increase would generate vital revenue for the agency to carry out Oregon's state action plan. In the current update, the agency has identified at least 330 species of greatest conservation need and 201 species of greatest information need that would be prioritized for this funding. Without this funding, ODFW would not have the resources to implement this plan to support these species. This lack of funding endangers them and is critical for their survival. Oregon needs to step up and do more for it's wildlife and in particular, it's at risk species.

I am also happy to see an amendment added for 0.050% to the Department of State Police for efforts to combat poaching which has reached alarming numbers and needs to be addressed.

Please support this important opportunity for wildlife this session

Carrie Cooke