



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2977A
Senate Committee on Rules

June 24, 2025

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2977A

HB 2977A would add a 1.25 percent charge to "transient lodging" in Oregon to fund a variety of wildlife conservation efforts, including implementation of the state's wildlife conservation strategy, humane responses to human-wildlife conflict ("wildlife stewardship"), enforcement of anti-poaching laws, and protection of wildlife migration corridors.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2977A because the money raised would lead to more effort to protect and recover all wildlife for the benefit of all Oregonians. Currently, wildlife conservation competes for state general funds and a portion of revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. This makes the funding unstable and leads to a focus on animals targeted by hunters and anglers. A dedicated funding source for wildlife conservation would make Oregon's conservation programs more effective and allow those programs to focus on all wildlife for all people.

Funding wildlife conservation through an increase in the transient lodging tax makes sense because a robust wildlife population is a draw for tourism, which benefits the transient lodging industry. Increasing the charge from 1.5 percent to 2.75 percent would be unlikely to significantly affect demand for short-term lodging and Oregon's total state transient lodging tax would still be low compared to other states.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director