



June 24, 2025

Re: Support for HB 2977

Greetings Chair Jama, Vice-chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

On behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) and our thousands of supporters across southwest Oregon, we offer our support for the bipartisan HB 2977. As a member of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition, we are particularly encouraged by language in HB 2977 which directs investments to programs for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife that enhance wildlife connectivity and wildlife stewardship. Both ODFW and ODOT have played a crucial role in our efforts to secure federal funding for Oregon's first wildlife overpass – slated for construction on Interstate 5 just south of Ashland. We need to continue to invest in wildlife connectivity and stewardship projects across the state, and HB 2977 helps us dedicate a permanent stream of funding for beneficial projects.

KS Wild has also been a member of the Pacific Wolf Coalition since its founding in 2011. Over the past decade-plus, we have worked with wildlife agencies and local landowners to promote co-existence with gray wolves that are still recovering in this part of the state. We applaud efforts to try and find a balanced approach to support preventive, non-lethal measures for wolf management, along with the targeted investments in this bill that support anti-poaching funds for OSP and DOJ. Poaching has been on the rise in the state, and we need to address this concerning trend by giving agencies the tools they need to bring people to justice for illegal poaching.

HB 2977 is a step in the right direction to support the implementation of the 2016 Oregon Conservation Strategy. The regular stream of funding from HB 2977 will support communities that rely on and value outdoor recreation, like fishing and wildlife viewing.

For the Wild,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Dotson'.

Michael Dotson
Executive Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Ashland, Oregon