

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham and members of the committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2977, a bill to secure long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats. As a wildlife biologist conducting research for U.S. Forest Service, I've seen first hand the threats to wildlife conservation posed by budget cuts at the Federal level. Passage of HB 2977 provides an opportunity for Oregon to ameliorate this damage.

Oregon is an incredibly special place; home to a diverse array of plants, animals, and their habitats. Unfortunately, climate change and other natural and human-made impacts put their future at risk.

There are nearly 300 species of greatest conservation need and 11 habitats of conservation concern. To combat this – and ensure all species thrive in Oregon – we need bold, proactive investments in their recovery. The bill also allocates funds for wildlife stewardship, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity and invasive species control – which further bolster wildlife conservation in the state.

HB 2977 would do just that by providing a steady, sustainable source of funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity – all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Please support HB 2977 today.

Sincerely,

David Smith
Portland, OR