

4/8/17

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Salem, OR

Re: HB 3228

Dear Chairman Clem and Committee Members:

I am writing to support HB3228.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has too long emphasized its mission as enabler and promoter of hunting and fishing, substantially minimizing its duty to protect and enhance wildlife populations for their inherent worth, environmental health and non-consumptive enjoyment by the public. It is not for nothing that the Department's name was changed from the Department of Fish and Game to that of Fish and Wildlife, yet the Department has apparently not internalized this change.

The vast majority of Oregonians prefer to enjoy wildlife without killing it, and value it for environmental and ethical reasons, but ODFW still does not honor that preference. On a visit to ODFW Headquarters last year I didn't see any prominent posters or promotions of non-consumptive wildlife values, but stuffed animals, fur pelts and images of hunters with trophies filled the lobby. The number of hunting and fishing emails generated to the public by the Department far outnumber those to do with wildlife-watching, non-game wildlife conservation, or the ecosystem benefits of wildlife. This is an anachronism.

By requiring the State to "To protect, maintain and restore indigenous nongame wildlife resources for their intrinsic values, ecosystem functions and long term benefits," HB3228 takes a significant step in righting this wrong and complies with the wishes of Oregonians.

Please support HB3228.

Sincerely,

Wally Sykes  
Joseph, OR