

Dear Committee Members:

RE: HB 3204 Preventing Zoonotic Disease

In recent years many of the worst viruses we have experienced were Zoonotic of origin: COVID-19, Ebola, the avian influenza and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). Zoonotic disease transmission is often driven by wildlife exploitation, including trade and trafficking. Zoonotic pathogens pose serious threats to our public health and economic stability, as Covid-19 has. With most of the new or emerging infectious diseases being zoonotic in origin, Oregon must act now to avert future pandemics.

We must prevent transmission of Zoonotic diseases by strengthening state agency coordination and improving prevention, monitoring and response plans. And avert possible future outbreaks and economic disruptions by reducing avenues of zoonotic disease transmission associated with import, trade and handling of non-native wildlife. Please consider passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Jan Asher