

Submitter: Sue Tarjan

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural  
Resources

Measure: SB5509

Please restore the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package to the ODFW Budget. This funding package would add critically important capacity at ODFW to promote wildlife stewardship, humanely resolve human-wildlife conflicts, engage new audiences in wildlife conservation including historically marginalized populations, and support wildlife rehabilitation programs.

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The Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package includes five Wildlife Coexistence Biologists focused on outreach, education, and response around human interactions with wildlife, one Communications Coordinator focused on developing and implementing proactive communications and stakeholder engagement aimed at promoting stewardship and preventing human wildlife conflicts, \$400k for Living with Wildlife Campaign, and \$300k grant program to support wildlife rehabilitation centers.

The Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package is critically important to ensuring that ODFW has the resources to protect Oregon's wildlife by promoting wildlife stewardship, engaging communities in conservation, advancing humane solutions when wildlife conflicts occur, and expanding resources to respond to sick and injured wildlife.

Most sincerely,  
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