

Submitter: Hillary Tiefer

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB4148

Dear Committee,

I remember being in the state capitol building in Salem and seeing a prominent portrait of an earlier governor smiling and in the background were mountains covered in forest and replete with wildlife, perhaps even grizzly bears. The scene seemed to epitomize Oregon's natural beauty. I am not surprised that ODFW's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations." Some of that wildlife is gone and some of those forests no longer exist because they were not protected. That is why I appreciate Representative Ken Helm introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill. This bill is in spirit with that ODFW mission: supporting and advancing strong programs that ensure wildlife is protected. I agree with the following points made by the Humane Society of the United States:

- HB 4148 will help protect wildlife, our environment, and people across Oregon by preventing human-wildlife conflicts, inspiring wildlife stewardship, supporting wildlife rehabilitation efforts, reducing wildlife collisions, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks.
- HB 4148 would provide much needed outreach and education efforts to the community about living with wildlife, thereby preventing wildlife conflicts from happening and ultimately keeping wildlife and the public safe. The campaign would aim to reach all Oregonians.
- Wildlife rehabilitation centers are an invaluable resource for our community and its wildlife. The much-needed grants provided in HB 4148 would bolster their efforts to provide care for injured, sick and orphaned wildlife.
- The new wildlife coexistence biologists included in this legislation would provide the public with an outlet when faced with a conflict with wildlife, allowing for the community to feel supported by their wildlife agency and for the opportunity for nonlethal strategies to be implemented, thereby saving the lives of wild animals.

If future generations are to enjoy wildlife then they need to be protected.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Hillary Tiefer

