

Submitter: Kathleen Worley

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

I am in strong support of all four sections of this bill, as its provisions protect both wildlife and people. Adding a wildlife coexistence program at ODFW, including additional biologists and an outreach coordinator is crucial to educating people about humane methods of dealing with “troublesome” wildlife. As people (and vehicle) populations increase we need positive strategies to reduce conflicts and collisions. Wildlife crossings have been proven to be very effective elsewhere, and a veterinary diagnostic lab for tracking disease outbreaks stands to benefit people as well as animals. Threats to habitat posed by invasive species need to be addressed before ecosystems are degraded beyond repair. The provisions of this bill offer strategies to address clear and present problems. If we don’t do that, we end up scrambling to react to disasters and often spending more money to clean up the mess than we would have spent in preventing the disaster. I urge support of HB4148!