

Submitter: Meg Sczyrba

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

First, I want to thank my Representative, Ken Helm, for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill.

As an Oregonian, I care tremendously about our state's wildlife and support advancing strong programs that ensure our wild neighbors are protected. It is only by preserving wild life and wild places in Oregon that we can start restoring the natural balance that has kept our planet strong. Because humans are coming into contact with wildlife more and more as we expand our cities, it is important to inspire wildlife stewardship and promote coexistence through wildlife rehabilitation efforts, reducing wildlife collisions, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks. This bill can provide much needed outreach and education efforts to the community about how to live with wildlife, thereby preventing human-wildlife conflicts from happening and ultimately keeping both wildlife and the public safe. 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.

HB 4148 is an opportunity to reflect Oregon's values of caring for our wild neighbors and furthering the mission of ODFW to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

Thank you.