

Submitter: Karen Sjogren

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

Please support this bill, which would greatly improve wildlife management in Oregon by addressing several current issues in a Wildlife Omnibus Package. First, it would create a Wildlife Coexistence Program by hiring five wildlife biologists and an outreach coordinator, providing alternatives to lethal solutions. It would financially support rehabilitation centers, which is badly needed statewide. I know because I try to support them but donor support is not enough. Secondly, it would support wildlife crossings, badly needed as traffic increases in areas where there is wildlife (deer in particular). Thirdly, it would give financial support to the OSU Veterinary Diagnostics Lab, increasingly needed as we confront avian flu and other zoonotic diseases. Finally, it would support the Oregon Invasive Species Council. I have lived in Oregon over 30 years, and even as the state grows in size, people still love our wildlife. This bill will help insure that our wildlife populations persist in spite of growth and development.