

Submitter: Josephine Hawthorne

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

Thank you, Representative Helm, for introducing HB 4148. I strongly support HB 4148. It protects Oregon's wildlife and environment in the face of the challenges brought by climate change. I support all four sections of the bill as it addresses critical issues of invasive species, highway hazards for both motorists and wildlife on Oregon's roads and highways, and wildlife health. I especially support the section supporting the Veterinary Diagnostics Lab at OSU. Deer and elk populations in North America are currently experiencing an outbreak of chronic wasting disease (CDW). CDW is caused by a misshapen protein called a prion. A disease caused by a prion, mad cow disease, jumped from cows to humans, causing an incurable, fatal disease, mad cow disease. An outbreak of a prion caused disease in wildlife would be much more difficult to control than one in domestic livestock.