



February 6, 2024

RE: Testimony in support of HB 4148: "The Wildlife Package"

Chairman Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 4148. The Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) is a non-profit dedicated to protecting, defending, and restoring wild nature in southwest Oregon and northwest California. We represent approximately 10,000 members and supporters across Oregon and beyond, with a vast majority of our supporter network spread throughout the Rogue, Applegate, and Illinois River Valleys.

We support, and encourage you to pass, HB 4148 to provide resources and direction for Oregon agencies to address invasive species, wildlife-human coexistence measures, while increasing engagement with state transportation leaders to expand wildlife corridor opportunities. In our region, many rural residents find themselves interacting with a number of wildlife - from wolves to beavers to bears and cougars. Funding for coexistence education campaigns would benefit rural communities like the ones we serve. KS Wild values this type of coexistence education, and we have been founding members of the Pacific Wolf Coalition since 2011 for that very reason. Funding for coexistence education and outreach would benefit our communities and residents, and directing the Dept. of Transportation to update guidance and standards for wildlife crossings would benefit these same communities that want to see wildlife thrive among their farmlands and small woodlands.

Thank you,

Michael Dotson, Executive Director
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center