

Submitter: Sheila Dooley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

HB 2980 Wildlife Stewardship Program

I urge you to please support HB 2980. In Mosier where I live, we are fortunate to have the nearby Rowena Wildlife Clinic to provide wildlife rehabilitation services. The clinic struggles to stay open and relies heavily on donations.

Human-wildlife conflicts in our area have increased with population growth. As more people move to the country, they don't know how to live with wildlife in a peaceful way or what to do if they encounter an injured animal. The lack of wildlife coexistence education contributes to these conflicts.

HB 2980 will go a long ways towards helping to solve these issues through funding for the Wildlife Stewardship Program which will enable ODFW to:

- Create 3 new wildlife coexistence biologist positions
- Develop a Living with Wildlife public education and outreach campaign
- Establish a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers

Thank you.

Sheila Dooley