



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

SUBJECT: HB 2980 (Oregon Wildlife Stewardship) - SUPPORT

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 2980 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill.

ORTWS represents nearly 600 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of HB 2980 because it aligns with our mission and goals that include 1) promoting stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the use of sound ecological information and 2) increasing public awareness and appreciation of wildlife. We view the proposed addition of trained wildlife biologists to serve our urban communities and Oregon's wildlife as strategic and immediately productive. In addition, the long-term impacts of substantially more Oregonians being aware of human-wildlife conflict resolution and an appreciation of Oregon's wildlife can have massive positive impacts on the future of wildlife conservation and management in Oregon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Board of Directors