

Submitter: Amy Knudsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Wildlife Stewardship Bill. My name is Amy Knudsen. I am a resident of central Oregon, a professional working in the community and raising a family. I am a concerned science educator. Supporting wildlife and the conservation of natural resources is something that needs to be put front and center in the decision making process of how to fund different bills, programs, and grants around the state. I am grateful that the Wildlife Stewardship Bill is a topic of conversation and is being considered. This Bill represents Oregon's rich and historic values of wilderness, wildness, and responsible stewardship of the natural world.

HB 2980's allocation for three new ODFW wildlife biologists and targeted outreach will fill a critical gap. Wolves are returning to this great state and many landowners want and need assistance to utilize nonlethal strategies to reduce potential conflict. I applaud this collaboration. We all need to work together to help preserve and conserve struggling native species. The passing of the Bill would greatly increase collaborations around the state, including more wildlife rehabilitation centers.

I strongly urge you to support the passing of the Wildlife Stewardship Bill. Our future generations depend on it. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,  
Amy Knudsen