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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

In my neighborhood on Bald Peak in northern Yamhill County, I have seen increasing development pushing people and wildlife into closer proximity, increasing the risk of human-wildlife conflict. Climate change and habitat loss is only worsening this problem. We are seeing bears and cougars roaming closer to homes lower on Bald Peak as trees are cut down and warming temperatures threaten their sources of food and water. These conflicts can be costly and I've seen them decrease people's tolerance for wildlife and wildlife conservation. Some in my community value the diversity of wildlife around us, but some fear or otherwise lack tolerance for any predator or "nuisance" animal. Living in a suburban/rural buffer zone, I welcome the Wildlife Stewardship Program's investment in the Department of Fish and Wildlife to address these problems. Funding three new wildlife coexistence biologist positions stationed around the state, developing a Living with Wildlife public education and outreach campaign, and establishing a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers, which serve on the frontlines of human-wildlife interactions, all sound like wonderful steps to take, and I hope that my community and I can benefit from them soon.

Thank You!