

Submitter: Alice Chang  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

As an Oregonian for 20+ years who values the resilient conservation of our natural spaces and everything that lives within it, I strongly urge you to support HB2980. I am currently in training to become an Oregon Naturalist through OSU Extension and plan to dedicate the rest of my life to these values.

HB2980 is a step forward in that direction as laid out by the Willamette Riverkeeper:

**“Prevention is More Effective and Cost-Efficient than Reaction:**  
Current wildlife management often relies on short-term, lethal responses to conflicts, which fail to address the root causes.  
Investing in proactive strategies reduces long-term costs for communities, landowners, and wildlife agencies.

**Standardized, Science-Based Solutions for Coexistence:**  
A dedicated team of wildlife coexistence biologists will provide consistent, effective guidance to help prevent conflicts before they escalate.  
This will ensure a coordinated response across Oregon, benefiting urban, suburban, and rural areas alike.

**Strengthening Oregon’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Network:**  
Wildlife rehabilitation centers provide critical care for injured and displaced wildlife but lack sustainable funding.  
This bill will support these frontline organizations so they can continue their essential work.

**Protecting Biodiversity & Public Safety:**  
As human development expands, ensuring wildlife remains wild and minimizing conflict is crucial for maintaining Oregon’s ecological balance.  
Educating the public on best practices for coexistence will help reduce unnecessary interactions and promote long-term stewardship.

**A Broad Coalition Supports This Bill:**  
The Wildlife Stewardship Program was developed collaboratively by ODFW, conservation groups, and wildlife experts.  
It is a priority bill for the Oregon Conservation Network and the Oregon Wildlife Coalition.”