

Submitter: Anne-Marie Eklund

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

I wholeheartedly support HB 2980. This bill would promote a proactive approach to mitigating wildlife-human interactions and help restore our ecosystems. At a time when Oregon's wildlife is adversely affected by development and climate change, this bill would allow for several existing wildlife rehabilitation organizations, such as Think Wild in Central Oregon, to continue and expand their excellent work. This bill will support several organizations on the front line of rescue, rehabilitation, and release operations. In addition, this funding will help standardize the approaches to human-wildlife interactions, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years. This bill will enable wildlife rehabilitation organizations to continue vital coexistence and conservation and education programs, which lead to fewer incidents. These are great organizations that do much to keep our wildlife wild, help restore our State's ecosystems, and educate the public to minimize negative interactions. Finally, this bill will create an infrastructure that will streamline, standardize, and coordinate wildlife rehabilitation efforts statewide.