

Please Vote YES on House Bill 4128

Improving Oregon's Capacity to Prevent and Respond to Zoonotic Disease

Many of the worst epidemics and pandemics in recent decades, including COVID-19, Ebola virus, avian influenza, and SARS, were zoonotic in nature, which means they spread from animals to humans. Over 75% of newly emerging infectious diseases originate with wildlife.

HB 4128 will equip Oregon with practical tools to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks linked to the import, trade, and handling of wildlife.

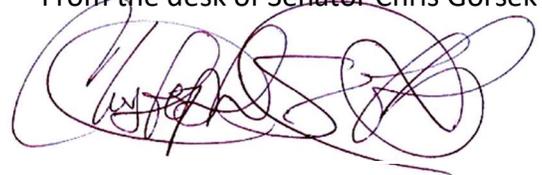
Zoonotic diseases, like the COVID-19 pandemic, are on the rise due to factors such as habitat loss, climate change, and wildlife trade and trafficking – all things that bring people into closer proximity with wildlife. The United States is one of the world's top importers of wildlife, consuming an estimated 20 percent of the global wildlife market. New zoonotic diseases pose serious threats to our public health, biological diversity, and economic stability. The costs of wildlife diseases to public health are enormous, and tend to fall disproportionately on BIPOC communities, stemming from poor health care access and structural discrimination.

HB 4128 will help prevent zoonotic transmission of disease by strengthening state agency coordination and improving prevention, monitoring and response plans. It will also help avert future public health outbreaks and economic disruptions by reducing avenues for zoonotic disease transmission associated with import, trade, and handling of wildlife.

HB 4128 will complement existing state agency efforts to respond to zoonotic disease. It is a bill of support for the Oregon Conservation Network and a priority bill for the Oregon Wildlife Coalition. HB 4128 passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, and Water, and passed with bipartisan support on the floor of the House.

Please vote YES on HB 4128 to help Oregon prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks linked to the import, trade, and handling of wildlife.

From the desk of Senator Chris Gorsek



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OREGON LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

OREGON CONSERVATION NETWORK



Union of Concerned Scientists



Cascadia WILDLANDS
we take it wild



Western Environmental Law Center

