

I am writing in support of the Wildlife Coexistence Package that is part of SB 5509. This package would address a current need to better educate residents in urban and suburban areas regarding how to coexist with wildlife in such environments.

I live in a suburban part of the Portland Metro area that is near but not on the Willamette River. Most people would acknowledge that my neighborhood is a well developed one. Nonetheless, some of the species that my family encounters on or near our property include deer, squirrels (native and nonnative), raccoons, beavers, eagles, ospreys, red-tailed hawks, owls, hummingbirds, chipmunks, rabbits, otters, coyotes, bats, waterfowl, and numerous species of songbirds. We have had no problems coexisting with these creatures and have even taken rudimentary actions to enhance the habitat value of our property such as retaining native tree species and installing a couple of nesting boxes.

Unfortunately, too many people are ignorant about the effect of their actions on wildlife. For example, some of our neighbors, while not actively opposed to conservation, have modified their properties in ways that are unnecessarily detrimental wildlife. The State would be well served by actively promoting wildlife stewardship in urban and suburban areas, educating the residents in such areas on how humanely resolve human-wildlife conflicts, and providing information on simple things that residents can do to enhance habitat.

Please help ensure that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has the resources to protect wildlife in urban and suburban areas by funding the Wildlife Coexistence Package.

Bert Krages
Lake Oswego

