

Submitter: Vicki Bucklin

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: SB5509

My husband and I live on Puget Island in the Lower Columbia River. We have volunteered for years at the only rehabilitation center for Seabirds on the Oregon coast, The Wildlife Center of the North Coast. Funding is dependent on donations and local volunteers who run the organization. The recent increases in extreme weather affects our patient load, and housing is always in need of adjustments.

We ask that you please fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package. This package was developed last year by a stakeholder group that included Portland Audubon, Wildlife Center of the Northcoast, Chintimini, Humane Society of the United States as well as ODFW staff, commission members and OSP. It is designed to significantly increase resources devoted to preventing and resolving wildlife conflicts, responding to distressed wildlife situations, engaging urban and suburban audiences in wildlife conservation and supporting wildlife rehabilitation centers. It would add five new Coexistence Biologist positions to ODFW (located around the state), fund a wildlife coexistence campaign (to promote stewardship and reduce conflicts) and create a grant program specifically to support rehabilitation centers.

Please fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package