



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

February 5, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

***RE: Support for HB 4148***

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I write to express our support for House Bill 4148, a wildlife funding package aimed at increasing humane-wildlife coexistence, expanding wildlife crossing policy and addressing the impacts of wildlife disease and invasive species.

As a member of the 2022 Oregon task force that saw a diverse set of stakeholders reach a consensus regarding the need to shift from reactive to proactive approaches in managing human-wildlife interactions, HSUS is most enthusiastic about the wildlife coexistence program to help prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, inspire urban wildlife stewardship and responsibility, and build greater public awareness for communities across Oregon.

As an organization, we work to provide animal care and control professionals, law enforcement, shelters, wildlife rehabilitation centers and any other agency or organization taking calls from the public with the tools needed to help address conflicts with wildlife humanely and effectively. These responders play a crucial role in equipping the public with information on how to share space with wild animals in a way that protects all involved. There are many reasons why conflicts with wildlife will likely increase, and as such, we see the immense need for five new wildlife conflict biologists and grants for wildlife rehabilitators – a hands on and vital resource for local communities who are on the front lines of responding to human-wildlife conflicts, fielding thousands of calls each year for the public.

The HSUS also works to provide the public with information about how to live with wildlife and we recognize the need for greater public awareness that wild animals are a part of our community. The Wildlife Coexistence Coordinator position and corresponding outreach campaign included in this legislation has the potential to make a significant difference in how

the public considers wildlife and what changes they can make in behavior to prevent conflicts, thereby saving valuable resources and lives.

Exacerbated conflicts with wildlife incur costs for both the public and our responding agencies and personnel. This investment will pay off in many ways as conflicts are prevented from happening in the first place.

HB 4148 is an opportunity to reflect the values of Oregonians and further the mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to “protect and enhance Oregon’s fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.”

We are thrilled to be a part of a broad and diverse group of stakeholders in support of HB 4148 and respectfully urge the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water to pass this bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson  
Oregon Senior State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States