

Submitter: Kristi LaHaye

On Behalf Of: Humane Society of the US and OHS volunteers

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB4148

Thank you, Representative Ken Helm, for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill ~ as an Oregonian I care about our state's wildlife and support advancing strong programs that ensure our wild neighbors are protected.

HB 4148 will help protect wildlife, our environment, and people across Oregon by preventing human-wildlife conflicts, inspiring wildlife stewardship, supporting wildlife rehabilitation efforts, reducing wildlife collisions, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks.

HB 4148 would provide much needed outreach and education efforts to the community about living with wildlife, thereby preventing wildlife conflicts from happening and ultimately keeping wildlife and the public safe. The campaign would aim to reach all Oregonians.

Wildlife rehabilitation centers are an invaluable resource for our community and its wildlife. The much-needed grants provided in HB 4148 would bolster their efforts to provide care for injured, sick and orphaned wildlife.

The new wildlife coexistence biologists included in this legislation would provide the public with an outlet when faced with a conflict with wildlife, allowing for the community to feel supported by their wildlife agency and for the opportunity for nonlethal strategies to be implemented, thereby saving the lives of wild animals.

HB 4148 is an opportunity to reflect Oregon's values of caring for our wild neighbors and furthering the mission of ODFW to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.