

Submitter: Rynda Clark

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

I support this bill to address wildlife diseases.

Creates a Wildlife Coexistence Program at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW): HSUS has played a key role in this portion of the bill that would promote wildlife stewardship, advance non-lethal strategies to prevent, reduce and resolve wildlife conflicts and support wildlife rehabilitation centers across Oregon.

Specifically, HB 4148 would add five wildlife coexistence biologists and a wildlife coexistence outreach coordinator position within ODFW and would provide grant support to licensed wildlife rehabilitation nonprofit centers to help care for injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife.

Supports Wildlife Crossings: Advances efforts to create safe passage across Oregon's roads protecting both people and wildlife.

Supports the OSU Veterinary Diagnostics Lab: Provides additional funding for critical equipment and capacity to address and respond to threats such as Chronic Wasting Disease and zoonotic diseases.

Oregon Invasive Species Council: Allocations additional funds to evaluate and address vulnerabilities, increase public awareness, and respond to emergencies.