

Submitter: June Stephens

On Behalf Of: Wildlife

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

Measure: HB4148

Thank you to Representative Helm for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill! I am an Oregonian who cares deeply about our State's wildlife and I support advancing strong programs that ensure our wildlife is protected. HB 4148 would provide much needed outreach and educational efforts to the community about co-existing with wildlife, thereby preventing conflicts from happening. This issue is extremely important because of our rapidly increasing population that is encroaching upon wildlife habitat.

Within my community in Beaverton, I have lived among and enjoyed observing coyotes, raptors, crows, opossums, skunks, and raccoons cross my yard for many years. These animals are "urban wildlife" and unfortunately, many "new" residents express unsubstantiated claims that create suspicion and fear of these animals. HB 4148 would provide educational opportunities for individuals to learn about, respect, protect, and even enjoy observing our urban wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 4148 and to speak on behalf of wildlife.