

Submitter: Jean-Paul Zagarola

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

Dear House Committee,

I'm writing to provide written testimony in support of HB 4148. I appreciate Representative Helm's efforts to propose this critical bill. I express strong support for passage of all four parts of this bill which will help protect wildlife, our environment and people across Oregon by reducing wildlife convicts, helping stop the spread of invasive species, reducing wildlife collisions, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks.

HB 4148 puts in place positive, proactive strategies to address the increasing pressure wildlife faces while supporting sustainable solutions for residential areas and working lands. As a restoration ecologist in the Willamette Valley I have experience with the issue HB 4148 is trying to address first hand. For example, beaver habitats are critically important for mitigating the impacts of climate change - increasing drought, flooding, wildfire and for restoring salmon habitat. We should be partnering with beaver to better address these impacts, however, beaver also cause conflicts for infrastructure and agriculture. Unfortunately, trap and removal has been the default strategy for addressing these conflicts to the detriment of the ecosystems beaver support and the benefits we gain from them. While solutions exist that allow beaver to continue providing benefits to humans and communities that are ultimately more effective at reducing long term conflicts than lethal trapping, funding for these types of wildlife conflict solutions are severely lacking and difficult to come by. For beaver and other wildlife, supporting co-existence has a significant return on investment and implementation of HB 4148 will help us make that investment.

I urge you to pass HB 4148. Many thanks.