

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

Representative Helm, thank you for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill, to the 2024 legislative session. As a resident of Oregon and a lover of its wildlife and natural resources, I am writing to support this bill and to urge the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water to support it.

Each of the four elements of the bill--a Wildlife Coexistence Program at ODFW, plus investments in wildlife crossings, invasive species control, and expanded ability to track and respond to disease outbreaks--will provide a stronger foundation for helping Oregon's wildlife AND its people thrive together in the years ahead, when stresses on wildlife are bound to increase. By putting programs in place and giving enhanced tools to wildlife specialists now, we Oregonians will be taking a proactive step toward better protection of the fish, animals, birds, and other creatures that share our state with us. I strongly support all four measures of HB 4148.

On a personal level, I am heartsick whenever I see wildlife slain along our roads and highways; I would love to see Oregon do more with wildlife crossings, lowered speed limits in known crossing or corridor areas, and any measures that have been proven effective in reducing wildlife strikes.

I thank you and the members of the committee for your time and attention.

Rebecca Steffoff, Portland