

February 6, 2024

This letter is in support of the bill HB 4148. As a resident of Oregon for the past 20 years, I love our state and our access to the outdoor life. We live in close proximity to wildlife throughout our state and I would venture to say, that most, if not all Oregonians enjoy being able to see deer on the hillsides and fields, hear owls hooting at dawn and watch birds nesting in our pine forests. Human wildlife interaction can be, but does not have to be problematic. Making some changes in road building for instance, providing under and bypasses on highways for wildlife migration routes, makes roads safer, not only for the wildlife but for humans as well. Because the human footprint throughout the world is enormous, I believe that we do have a responsibility to share and care for the other beings on the planet. That needs to start at home, in our state. Another example of what HB 4148 can aid is giving support to wildlife rehabilitation groups. This does more than allow individual animals a chance at recovery from what is more often than not human induced illness or trauma, but also serves the community. The community benefits by giving citizens an organization to embrace as a place to contact when an injured animal is found. In this is a powerful message for our children, that the animals around us matter... building care and respect for the wildlife that we share the planet with. This caring for animals translates well into kindness directed to conspecifics as well.

These are just a couple of examples of the benefits HB4148 will create. As a veterinarian, a biologist and a wildlife photographer I know there is so much we can do to improve the coexistence between humans and wildlife, bettering the quality of life for not only the animals, but humans as well.

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Think Wild Board of Directors