



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 613, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Mingus Mapps, Commissioner ■ Dawn Uchiyama, Director

February 5, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, I am writing today to express our strong support for House Bill 4148. This legislation advances several important wildlife initiatives, including addressing wildlife disease, responding to invasive species, promoting wildlife stewardship and coexistence, and ensuring safe passage for people and wildlife.

The City of Portland has long worked to be strong stewards of the natural environment with all our public works bureaus seeking to restore and protect natural spaces and habitat within our urban landscape. One example of this is through the Bureau of Environmental Services, which in addition to operating and maintaining the city's wastewater and stormwater systems, works collaboratively with other city bureaus to protect and restore streams and watersheds to protect water quality, public health, and the environment. These efforts allow improved habitats for native wildlife and plants, which lays the groundwork for increased environmental and public health benefits as time goes on.

- We support the multi-pronged approach that HB 4148 is taking to address Oregon's many wildlife issues including allocating \$3.5 million to prepare the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to combat zoonotic diseases; providing \$1.5 million for the Oregon Invasive Species Council to evaluate and address vulnerabilities; investing in public education and grants to promote coexistence between humans and wildlife; and improving technical guidance available to planners and engineers integrating wildlife into highway projects.

With these critical steps taken to address issues we are seeing related to wildlife, Oregon can prioritize a stronger sense of public health related to zoonotic disease, combat threats of invasive species, provide greater public education on wildlife coexistence, and strengthen guidance for engineers and planners. For these reasons and more, we encourage you to vote yes on HB 4148.

Thank you,

Dawn Uchiyama
Director
Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland

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