

Submitter: Yael Oppenheimer

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB4148

Dear members of the House Committee,

First I would like to thank Representative Ken Helm for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill. As an Oregonian I care about our state's wildlife and support advancing strong programs that ensure our wild neighbors are protected.

HB 4148 will help protect wildlife, our environment, and people across Oregon by preventing human-wildlife conflicts, inspiring wildlife stewardship, supporting wildlife rehabilitation efforts, reducing wildlife collisions, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks.

It would also provide much needed outreach and education efforts to the community about living with wildlife, thereby preventing wildlife conflicts from happening and ultimately keeping wildlife and the public safe. As an animal welfare worker, I understand the need for community engagement and education for risk prevention.

Wildlife rehabilitation centers are an invaluable resource for our community and its wildlife. The much-needed grants provided in HB 4148 would bolster their efforts to provide care for injured, sick and orphaned wildlife. It is crucial to understand that nature is closely intertwined, and we are dependent of wildlife to maintain the balance in nature.

HB 4148 is an opportunity to reflect Oregon's values of caring for our wild neighbors and furthering the mission of ODFW to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Thank you for considering this bill and I hope you do the right thing by supporting it!

Best,
Yael Oppenheimer
Eugene, OR