

February 6, 2024

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Helm:

Thank you very much for introducing HB 4148, the Omnibus Wildlife Bill. As an Oregonian, I care deeply about our state's wildlife and I support advancing robust programs that ensure meaningful protections for species throughout the state. HB 4148 will do just that.

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-vehicle collisions, improving wildlife migration corridors and connectivity, and responding to wildlife disease outbreaks.

HB 4148 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. The campaign would aim to reach all Oregonians.

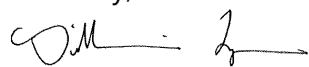
Wildlife rehabilitation centers are an invaluable resource for our community and its wildlife. The much-needed grants provided in HB 4148 would bolster their efforts to provide care for injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife.

The new wildlife coexistence biologists included in this legislation would provide the public with an expert resource when faced with a conflict with wildlife, allowing for the community to feel supported by their wildlife agency and for the opportunity for nonlethal strategies to be implemented, thereby saving the lives of wild animals.

HB 4148 is an opportunity to put into action Oregon's core values of caring for our treasured wildlife while 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 again for your leadership on this important issue. I respectfully request that the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water support HB 4148.

Sincerely,



Gilly Lyons
gillynorth@gmail.com