

Submitter: Karen Sjogren

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

I have always felt that education and personal interaction with professional wildlife biologists are the best means of reducing human-wildlife conflicts, promoting wildlife coexistence and stewardship, and engaging new and diverse audiences in wildlife conservation. It is important to advance these goals as our population becomes more ethnically diverse and population growth abuts our wildlands and urban parks. This bill would fund the hiring of three new wildlife biologists, a Living with Wildlife public education and outreach campaign, and grant programs to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers. At a time when federal funding for wildlife conservation is uncertain, it is important for the state to step up and fund these very effective means of conserving our rich heritage of wildlife. I support several rehab centers and it is amazing what they are able to do with donations. Please help them out. Thank you for considering my testimony. Let's get this bill passed this session.