

February 4, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2980 - Support

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2980. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, public interest organization of about 950 members. Its offices are located in Bend, Oregon. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for preserving natural resources in Central Oregon for over 30 years.

As our communities face the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, we must take the necessary steps to better promote wildlife stewardship and to support a proactive approach to reducing human-wildlife conflicts across the state of Oregon.

HB 2980 would establish the Wildlife Stewardship Program, increasing the capacity of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to better address human-wildlife conflicts, improving education and outreach efforts to support our communities in being better neighbors to our non-human kin, and funding the important work of Oregon’s frontline workers on human-wildlife conflicts— wildlife rehabilitation centers.

LandWatch strongly supports HB 2980.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Austin  
Wild Lands & Water Program Director  
Central Oregon LandWatch  
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Bend, OR 97703

