



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

February 3, 2025

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

***RE: Support for HB 2980***

Dear Chair John Lively, Vice Chairs Mark Gamba and Bobby Levy and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I write to express our support for HB 2980, the Wildlife Stewardship Bill.

The HSUS has been a steadfast supporter of the Wildlife Stewardship Program from the beginning, having served on the Wildlife Response Taskforce that brought forward this important initiative that invests meaningfully in resources that reduce human-wildlife conflicts, inspire wildlife stewardship and responsibility, and conserve Oregon's wildlife.

As an organization, we work to provide animal care and control professionals, law enforcement, shelters, wildlife rehabilitation centers and any other agency or organization taking calls from the public with the tools needed to help address conflicts with wildlife humanely and effectively. These responders play a crucial role in equipping the public with information on how to share space with wild animals in a way that protects all involved. The HSUS also works to provide the public with information about how to live with wildlife and we recognize the need for greater public awareness that wild animals are a part of our communities.

Preventing these conflicts from occurring in the first-place benefits Oregonians, wildlife, and the local responding agencies. By providing information and educational opportunities to help people make appropriate decisions, the likelihood of problems becoming exacerbated will be reduced, therefore minimizing financial and other costs.

The Wildlife Stewardship Program will also provide much needed support for our state's wildlife rehabilitator organizations—who all operate as nonprofits—and who are equally committed to caring for and helping to conserve Oregon's wildlife while also serving as a hands-on resource for their local communities and fielding thousands of calls each year for help and guidance.

We are thrilled to be a part of a broad and diverse group of stakeholders in support of HB 2980 and respectfully urge the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment to support this bill and move it to Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson  
Oregon Senior State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States