

Submitter: Debra Merskin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

I am writing to support HB2980 and urge the Committee to support it as well to direct the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish a Wildlife Stewardship Program. While I live in Central Oregon, this program will benefit individuals and wildlife around the state. By investing in this program, the department will create new jobs (3 new wildlife coexistence biologist positions), generate public education, and establish a grant program. This is a win/win for everyone, whether urban or rural and most particularly, our wildlife, who will be supported within Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation network. In addition, it shifts from a reactive to a proactive approach to human-wildlife/wildlife-human conflicts and streamlines and makes consistent approaches to resolving conflicts. Please support this bill and keep wildlife wild.