

Teresa Rozic

Bend, Oregon

Testimony of Teresa Rozic

IN SUPPORT of HB 2980

My name is Teresa Rozic. I live in Bend, Oregon. I would like to submit written testimony in support of HB 2980.

I have volunteered at the Think Wild rehabilitation hospital for more than four years. It has been one of the most rewarding and educational experiences of my volunteer involvement in Central Oregon. I consider it a privilege to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. To be in their immediate presence is truly awesome.

In addition to caring for the animals in the hospital, I help enter hotline call data during the busy season. This exposes me to hundreds of examples of human-wildlife conflicts. For the lay person like myself, it is stressful to read firsthand about the injury and death of wildlife. I see the details and I think most of these conflicts are preventable. Climate change, habitat loss and human population growth are increasing these interactions.

I know that Think Wild has increased local awareness about the need to coexist with our wildlife. I frequently encounter people who have heard about Think Wild. They tell me how grateful they are to have the hospital and educational opportunities in our community rather than relying on state or federal agencies. Everyone I talk to wants to protect wildlife.

I believe that this bill will improve coordination among agencies and strengthen Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation work. This will maximize the impact of limited resources. Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that you pass HB 2980.