

Submitter: John Kaib
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

As often is the case, prevention is more effective and cost-efficient than reaction to a problem.

Current wildlife management often relies on short-term, lethal responses to conflicts, which fail to address the root causes. Investing in proactive strategies reduces long-term costs for communities, landowners, and wildlife agencies. As a physician I encourage standardized, science-based solutions for human/wildlife coexistence. A dedicated team of wildlife coexistence biologists will provide consistent, effective guidance to help prevent conflicts before they escalate. This will ensure a coordinated response across Oregon, benefiting urban, suburban, and rural areas alike.

Though less important in my eyes, assisting Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers to provide critical care for injured and displaced wildlife is also part of the solution.

As human development expands, ensuring wildlife remains wild and minimizing conflict is crucial for maintaining Oregon's ecological balance. Educating the public on best practices for coexistence will help reduce unnecessary interactions and promote long-term stewardship.

Lastly, the Wildlife Stewardship Program was developed collaboratively by ODFW, conservation groups, and wildlife experts. Please listen to their input and vote for HB 2980.

Thank you for your efforts,
John J Kaib, MD