

Submitter: Caroline Skinner
On Behalf Of: Willamette Riverkeeper
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

I support Willamette Riverkeeper and I'm writing in support of HB 2980. I fully agree with WRK that we need to protect wildlife by preventing conflicts with humans rather than reacting to conflicts and problems. HB 2980 offers a common-sense approach to this. I see it as a good investment of public funds.

Prevention is More Effective and Cost-Efficient than Reaction

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.

Standardized, Science-Based Solutions for 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.

Strengthening Oregon's Wildlife Rehabilitation Network

Wildlife rehabilitation centers provide critical care for injured and displaced wildlife but lack sustainable funding.

This bill will support these frontline organizations so they can continue their essential work.

Protecting Biodiversity & Public Safety

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.

A Broad Coalition Supports This Bill

The Wildlife Stewardship Program was developed collaboratively by ODFW, conservation groups, and wildlife experts.

It is a priority bill for the Oregon Conservation Network and the Oregon Wildlife Coalition.