



HUMANE | OREGON

8508 SE 11TH AVE.
PORTLAND, OR 97202
503.946.1534
INFO@HUMANEOREGON.ORG
WWW.HUMANEOREGON.ORG

Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 3228 (2017)
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

April 10, 2017

Chair Clem, Vice Chair McLain, Vice Chair Sprenger, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different parts of Oregon's animal welfare community.

Humane Oregon supports HB 3228 because it would explicitly recognize the "intrinsic" value of wildlife and give more attention to wildlife that is not hunted, trapped or fished.

We read HB 3228 to modify the mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in three ways. First, it would clarify that preventing "serious depletion" of native wildlife is the way the Department should "optimize" the benefits of wildlife for the citizens of Oregon. Second, it would recognize the "intrinsic" value of wildlife in addition to the values from our observation and use of wildlife. Third, it would add as a co-equal goal of wildlife management the protection, restoration and maintenance of nongame wildlife for its intrinsic value and other benefits.

These changes are appropriate. The state owns the fish and wildlife in trust for all the people of the state. ORS 498.002; *Simpson v. Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife*, 242 Or. App. 287 (2011). The trust responsibility extends to people who appreciate fish and wildlife, including "nongame" wildlife, purely for its "intrinsic" value – by knowing it exists and has a place in our world.

Moreover, according to the Department's website, "88% of our wildlife are nongame species including freshwater fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals." Given this, nongame wildlife deserves special mention in the goals of wildlife management, which is what HB 3228 proposes to give it.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Board Member/Administrator
brianp@humaneoregon.org; 503-946-1534