

Testimony in Support of HB 3228
Presented to
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

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The Humane Society of the United States
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Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our Oregon members and supporters, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 3228, sponsored by Representative Helm, to expand current state wildlife policy to be more inclusive of the values of all Oregonians, including those who see all wildlife, including nongame wildlife, as having intrinsic value that does not necessarily depend on their usefulness for hunting or other human activities.

HB 3228 would amend current Oregon wildlife policy section ORS 496.012 to allow for the management of indigenous nongame wildlife to include intrinsic value, ecosystem functions and long term benefits. This change will better represent the views of the vast majority of Oregonians and reflect how most of us think about our state's amazing wildlife – as an intrinsically valuable component of Oregon's natural habitats, and as a resource that should be protected and conserved for the long term.

Current ODFW management policy and practices emphasize the recreational and aesthetic benefits of Oregon's nongame wildlife. While these are still significant components of wildlife management, this policy is increasingly out of touch with modern values and perceptions of wildlife. Most Oregonians – including many of our state's hunters and fishermen – believe that all wildlife has intrinsic value and provides ecological benefits of our state's wildlife, and we believe those values should also be prioritized as a matter of our state's official wildlife policy.

HB 3228 will not prevent or restrict current wildlife management goals, such as allowing hunting and fishing. Instead, the bill will support efforts by state wildlife managers and administrators to recognize and include the diverse benefits of our state's wildlife, establishing goals, management plans and guidelines that better represent the values and needs of all Oregonians.

HB 3228 is a necessary and commonsense measure that aligns current state wildlife policy with the views of the majority of Oregonians who already recognize the intrinsic value and ecologic benefits of wildlife. I urge you to pass this bill and support improved management of Oregon's wildlife.

Thank you for considering our position, and for your service to the people and animals of Oregon.

Scott Beckstead

Senior Oregon Director
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