From: Wally Sykes

To: <u>Exhibits HNR; Rep Witt</u>
Subject: Please support HB 2834

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 12:56:09 PM

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

Please support HB 2834 and require the implementation of a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan.

Increased utilization of wildlife crossings over major highways would save thousands of animal lives per year, and would especially benefit migrating and dispersing wildlife. Interstate 5, for example, is a lethal barrier to wildlife migration. Oregon has three such crossings which have reduced wildlife/vehicle collisions by 85% where installed. There are over 7,000 animal/vehicle collisions every year in Oregon, at a cost to motorists of \$6500 per collision. Over time these crossings pay for themselves.

This is one wildlife Bill that should garner support from all Oregonians.

Passage of HB2834 will at the same time protect wildlife and people, abetting healthy wildlife populations, improving human safety and reducing financial loss from collisions.

Thanks for supporting this Bill.

Wally Sykes Joseph, OR