



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2834 (Wildlife Corridors)

To: House Committee on Natural Resources
From: Central Oregon LandWatch
Date: March 12, 2019

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

On behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch, we enthusiastically urge your SUPPORT of HB 2834, which seeks to produce a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan in order to better manage and preserve our wildlife resources and ecosystems.

Central Oregon LandWatch has a mission of achieving a responsible, balanced approach to planning for and conserving Oregon's land and water resources east of the Cascades, while recognizing the needs of future generations.

Oregon's ecosystem is incredibly complex and interconnected. The role played by each element, whether that is a herd of elk or a fast-moving stream, can have a distinct impact on the region... and therefore affect elements of human life such as agricultural lands or air quality.

Central Oregon LandWatch strives to ensure that our integration into these landscapes is planned in a thoughtful and prudent manner. Our built infrastructure can either serve as a necessary conduit for commerce or recreation... or as a knife separating vital ecological elements from each other.

HB 2834 is the first step in ensuring that the intersections of our natural resources and built infrastructure are better harmonized. An AYE vote on HB 2834 is a vote in favor of preserving the biodiversity and ecological stability that we as Oregonians both value and require.