

From: [Suzanne Linford](#)
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March 11, 2019

House Committee on Natural Resources
Public testimony regarding HB 2834

Dear Committee Members,



We urge your support of HB 2834, The Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Act. There are significant and long lasting benefits to the impacts of this bill. It will ensure sustainable populations of wildlife for many species.

Other consequences include:

1. Enabling wildlife to move between seasonal habitats that are critical to their survival;
2. Reducing the very high number of wildlife/vehicle collisions that cost both animal and human injuries and mortalities;
3. Making Oregon current with other western states in the number of crossings. Oregon has three crossings and a fourth slated for construction. Other western states have dozens of crossings and are continuing to build more;
4. Reducing state liability. Arizona settled over \$3 million dollars for the consequences of one collision.

5. Reducing the costs of \$6500 per collision to motorists. With 1000-5000 wildlife collisions in Deschutes County, the costs to motorists are \$6, 500, 000 to \$32, 500,000 annually. Crossings reduce this number by 90%. Crossings pay for themselves.
6. Protecting wildlife populations ensures millions of dollars to communities that depend on outdoor recreation. Mule deer are declining, and one significant cause is wildlife collisions.
7. Identifying wildlife corridors and migration routes to remove barriers to migration. This is being done in most western states and is supported by the Department of the Interior Order 3362 which brings federal dollars to those western states who support big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on federal lands.

We urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Oregon and for the wildlife of Oregon.

Suzanne Linford, Founder and Executive Director of Protect Animal Migration
(www.protectanimalmigration.org)