



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2834
House Committee on Natural Resources

March 13, 2019

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon (previously known as Humane Oregon) is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We have board members from several different animal welfare organizations but are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 2834 (in its original form or with the -1 amendments), which would direct development of a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan. Developing such a plan would be a great first step toward making the most of Oregon's wildlife habitat by restoring and protecting connectivity among habitats. It also would be a great first step toward reducing the number of vehicle collisions with wildlife, which obviously are harmful to people as well as wildlife.

We hope this legislation will eventually lead to more engineered wildlife highway crossings – bridges over highways and tunnels beneath them. We have followed the use of these structures both in Oregon and elsewhere and they seem to be enormously successful. Wildlife clearly find and use the structures, as demonstrated with use of remote cameras. Moreover, the cost of such structures is likely to be substantially offset by reductions in property damage and personal injuries from vehicle collisions with wildlife.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz

Brian Posewitz
Board Member/Administrator