

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Selberg Institute <maiablack@selberginstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 2834

My name is Maia Black. I am the Executive Director of the Selberg Institute, a conservation organization located in Southern Oregon. Our mission is to help conserve the unique ecosystems of the greater Cascade-Siskiyou landscape through land stewardship, advocacy, education and scientific research.

I want to express our support of HB 2834: Wildlife Corridor Action Plan to the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources and strongly urge members of the Committee to do the same.

Our organization manages thousands of acres of private lands, in the Southern Cascade and Klamath-Siskiyou regions, for conservation, wildlife habitat and connectivity. This area is known worldwide for its outstanding biological diversity, as well as being an eco-regional junction point, often referred to as the Cascade-Siskiyou “land bridge”. These unique features were federally recognized in June of 2000 by President Clinton with the proclamation of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the only monument established specifically to preserve and protect biodiversity.

Linkage corridors, like the Cascade-Siskiyou “land bridge” are crucial for species dispersal, seasonal migration, enabling access to more suitable habitats, locating high quality forage or prey, sustaining healthy genetic exchanges and accommodating range shifts due to climate change.

However, in the face of burgeoning ecosystem stressors- primarily habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as a changing climate – maintaining functional connectivity across this landscape is becoming increasingly critical for the long-term viability of wildlife populations, promoting resilient ecosystem processes, and ensuring adequate resource availability for future generations.

The Interstate 5 is one of the biggest barriers to functional connectivity in our region.

The proposed legislation in this bill will give clear direction to ODFW and ODOT to work cooperatively in further assessing these types of barriers within crucial linkage areas, finally creating a long overdue Wildlife Corridor Action Plan containing strategies for implementing wildlife crossings in order increase habitat connectivity, human safety and mitigate wildlife mortality and the adverse economic impacts caused from collisions.

Thank you!  
Maia Black  
Executive Director  
Selebrg Institute

