



Representative Pam Marsh  
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 4130 – Wildlife Crossing Investment Act**

Dear Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

We urge your favorable consideration of House Bill (HB) 4130, a bill to invest in habitat connectivity for Oregon wildlife and reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions.

Oregon's population growth and associated infrastructure – new homes, busier roads, and updated utilities – have shrunk and fragmented wildlife habitat across the state. Climate change compounds this fragmentation by forcing native species to move, adapt, or die.

To support animals in responding to climate change and other human impacts, we need to link survivable habitats, including by developing safe road crossings in key migration corridors, as envisioned by HB 4130.

This bill also funds a significant improvement in public safety. Currently Oregon's rate of vehicle-animal collisions is the highest among west coast States.

Our support is based on a practical analysis of connectivity opportunities and barriers in the Greater Hells Canyon Region of Northeast Oregon. One example of a priority project in our area is a wildlife crossing at Meacham pass. Currently, I-84 through this part of the Blue Mountains represents a severe barrier for north-south movement of elk and many other species – as well as a “red zone” for dangerous collisions. HB 4130-1 is a big step in the right direction for making hot spots such as this safer for both drivers and wildlife.

Thank you,

Darilyn Parry Brown, Executive Director  
Christina deVillier, Connections Coordinator

Greater Hells Canyon Council, La Grande, Oregon

