

February 1, 2022

To House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 4130 (Including -1 Amendments) – Wildlife Corridor Projects

Chair Marsh and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 4130 which provide funding to the Department of Transportation, for the purpose of funding projects that promote safe road crossings and connectivity for wildlife. While we support the introduced bill, we believe that the -1 amendment is an improvement. With the multitude of stressors placed on our wildlife it is increasingly important to prevent unnecessary deaths and to provide a safe means for wildlife to move freely and seek out habitats as they strive to adapt.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

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