



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 4130
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

February 1, 2022

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Hudson and Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon’s political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon participated in the work group that led to HB 4130 and **strongly supports the bill.**

HB 4130 would appropriate at least an additional \$5 million to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for “projects that promote safe road crossings and connectivity for wildlife.”

The projects described in the bill – typically bridges and tunnels that help wildlife get from one side of a highway to the other – are good for both people and animals. They help people by reducing property damage and injury from motor vehicle collisions with large animals such as deer and elk. They help animals by sparing them the risk of being hit by motor vehicles when crossing highways, and by connecting habitat that might otherwise be disconnected, which facilitates migration that is important to many species.

Wildlife highway crossings vary in cost, but they can easily pay for themselves through reduced injuries and property damage, not to mention numerous intangible benefits such as reduced trauma from motor vehicle accidents and healthier wildlife populations.

Prioritization of projects under HB 4130 should be guided both by risks to the traveling public and the habitat needs of wildlife. Among other things, prioritization should incorporate the work of the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project (OCAMP), which is the product of legislation passed in 2019. OCAMP is “a multi-year, collaborative effort to analyze and map statewide wildlife habitat connectivity * * * for up to 60 species.” It will “highlight priority wildlife corridors for all species in Oregon,” which will be useful in part for “identifying areas where wildlife passage structures could best reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.” ([OCAMP website.](#))

Thank you for considering our comments.

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