



February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Re: Support for HB 2999 (2023)

To the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water;

On behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and our 3,500 supporters across Oregon, we support House Bill 2999. The measure ensures that investments are aimed at reducing wildlife-automobile collisions, while improving connectivity and wildlife migration corridors along major transportation routes.

We encourage the House to pass this bill, which entails \$5 million in funding for critical wildlife mobility and habitat connectivity projects across the state. There are many wildlife crossing projects in various stages of development across the state, including a project along southern Oregon's Interstate-5 corridor within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument area. This is a critical east-west connectivity linkage in a biodiversity hotspot between the coastal range and the old-growth forests of the Cascades.

This additional investment is critical to get many developing projects funded, including ones similar to what the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition is working on between Ashland and the California state line. It will help the state be in a stronger position to leverage federal funds that are available for similar wildlife crossing and infrastructure projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to encourage more widespread investments in wildlife-friendly infrastructure in Oregon.

For the Wild,

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