



February 6, 2023

Testimony in support of HB 2999 to the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

I'm Amy Amrhein, co-coordinator of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition. The Coalition consists of over 17 organizations and state and federal agencies representing a broad range of interests from all political persuasions.

We are grateful to you for last year's allocation for wildlife crossing planning and construction. This year, our Coalition strongly supports HB 2999's additional funding to OCRF. This funding is essential to keep planning, engineering, and construction moving forward on ours, and many other needed Oregon wildlife crossing projects.

In addition, and perhaps more importantly, the funds can be used as state match dollars and leveraged for significant federal funds. We hope to apply to the new IJJA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program grant that has \$111 million dollars available for planning and construction across the country. With adequate state match funds, our project is ideally positioned to win an award for construction in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and please reach out anytime with questions. Thank you for your support of HB2999.

Amy Amrhein and Jack Williams, Co-Coordiators
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