

Submitter: Juanita Rinas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

Co-Chair Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 2978.

Our state is plagued by wildfires, with so many animals losing their habitat, they migrate not just because of seasonal migration, and mating seasons, but due to losing their historical homes from fire, they need safe passage to other areas where they can sustain themselves and find safety. Crossing busy highways brings high risk both to animals and to drivers, to deter and prevent casualties it's essential for us to provide ways for wildlife to have safe passage.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective and Oregon needs more crossing structures. HB 2978 and an option for permanent state-level funding to support wildlife crossing initiatives will:

Improve the safety of Oregon's roadways

Remove barriers to wildlife

Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding

Please build on the important progress at the state legislature over the past five years by passing HB 2978.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]