

Submitter: Lacey Kloster

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.

As an Oregonian, wildlife has always been an important priority to me. Part of my pride in living in this state is the respect and protection provided for natural spaces and the creatures who call it home. We are all connected by the land and resources we share and we cannot thrive without the natural world around us also thriving.

I was shocked to find out how far behind many other states we are in adding appropriate wildlife crossings to prevent vehicle collisions and needless death to species already struggling to survive in this increasingly human-dominated world. It is clear that Oregon needs more wildlife crossings to both support wildlife populations (in particular, mule deer here in Central Oregon) and prevent dangerous vehicle collisions.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective and Oregon desperately 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!!

Thanks for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Lacey Kloster