

Submitter: Thomas Kelley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

I live in Sunriver and it is impossible NOT to have noticed the effects of having our local safe wildlife underpass which was included in the improvements to Highway 97. The decrease in the number of animal deaths on the 97 have been amazing. Anecdotally, I talked with a naturalist at our Sunriver Nature Center soon after it was open and he one complaint, tongue in cheek. He is allowed to collect roadkill to feed the animals at the Nature Center. This used to be easy, but now he has to travel much further, to areas outside the influence of the new underpass, to find roadkill! You could say the animals are voting with their feet. This is so important because we live among the animals like the mule deer who have been here migrating seasonally for centuries. We have been here maybe 150 years. Our development and especially roadways like four lane divided highways comprise a huge barrier to the migration of wildlife. I firmly believe it is essential to include safe wildlife crossings for the wildlife whose habitat we share. I urge you to pass HB 3362