

Submitter: Sarah Haavind  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am supportive of permanent funding for wildlife crossings. Researching on OFW and ODOT taught me that estimates between vehicle damage, medical expenses and loss of hunting value can really add up. A deer collision averages \$18000 and an elk collision can be more like \$60,000 in total damages! Tally up all those collisions statewide and they're costing Oregonians \$114 million annually for deer and \$26 million more for elk. Adding wildlife crossings reduces collisions and is therefore a wise fiscal investment. Each crossing can yield annual savings of \$200,000 to \$400,000 annually.

Also consider what the representative from Think Wildlife mentioned at the hearing about learning to coexist better. Let's save ourselves some money, while saving the lives of people and wildlife, and set up permanent funding sources for wildlife crossings..