



April 14, 2025

To the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) and its thousands of supporters across the state of Oregon encourage the passage of HB 2978 to support the advancement of wildlife crossing and mitigation efforts to improve vehicle-wildlife collision rates. Since 2018, KS Wild and partners have been hosting a bi-annual conference on wildlife connectivity, in an effort to bring together NGOs, scientists, landowners, state transportation agencies, and federal and management agencies to share and plan for improved wildlife connectivity across southwest Oregon and northwest California's Klamath-Siskiyou region. We believe HB 2978 advances measures with the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Dept. of Transportation to work collaboratively on efforts to promote wildlife connectivity across the state.

KS Wild is a part of the Southwest Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition, and we would like to see more investments from the state of Oregon to advance wildlife overpasses like the recently announced Mariposa Preserve overcrossing on Interstate 5. This will be Oregon's first wildlife overpass, and we would like to see other overpass and underpass projects funded in the state to improve migration corridors and habitat connectivity.

Improving agency coordination in Oregon and helping direct investments for wildlife connectivity in our state has seen significant bipartisan support over the past half-decade. We encourage the members of this Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife to vote yes and advance HB 2978 for the betterment of Oregon's drivers, roadways, and wildlife connectivity.

For the Wild,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Dotson'.

Michael Dotson

Executive Director

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

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