

Subject: Support HB 2025 — Wildlife Crossings Save Lives

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee,

I'm reaching out to ask for your support of Sections 111 and 117 in HB 2025, which would dedicate funding to wildlife crossings and reduce the number of animals — and people — harmed on Oregon's roads.

Anyone who's driven our highways, especially in rural or forested areas, has probably had a close call with wildlife. For some, those close calls have turned into crashes — causing injury, damage, or worse. These aren't rare incidents; they happen every day in our state. And they affect not just people, but the health and survival of Oregon's wildlife.

When animals can't move safely across the landscape, it fragments their habitat and puts pressure on already struggling populations. And when they do try to cross — whether it's deer, elk, or endangered species — they often don't make it. These collisions are heartbreaking, costly, and preventable.

Wildlife crossings are a proven solution. They allow animals to cross safely, reconnect habitat, and reduce crashes significantly. Other states have shown that when you invest in crossings, the results are immediate and long-lasting.

Oregon has the chance to take a leadership role by making this funding consistent — not just one project at a time, but through a dedicated Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund. This is about public safety. It's about conservation. And it's about using common sense to fix a problem we already know how to solve.

Please support HB 2025 and ensure these sections are fully funded. It's a rare win-win for both people and wildlife.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dustin Selland