

Submitter: Lloyd Vivola

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

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

I am writing to urge your support of Sections 111 and 117 of HB 2025 in order to establish an Oregon Department of Transportation Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Fund at an annual rate of \$10 million per biennium.

Earlier this year I was shocked to learn that wildlife-vehicle collisions, most notably those involving deer and elk, cost Oregonians tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars in personal harm and property damage, and in some cases, the tragic loss of human life. At the same time, habitat loss and fragmentation are forcing our native mammals to negotiate roads and highways in a manner that increasingly threatens their well-being and their continued good health as an iconic part of Oregon's much beloved natural environment.

Happily, I also learned that wildlife crossings work and that they are becoming a much employed innovation for mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions. The Lava Butte wildlife underpass on Hwy 97 in central Oregon has reduced deer collisions by 90% since its construction. The message is clear: with the help of humans, our wildlife mammals will adapt to safe, newly provided wildlife corridors that enhance access to the sort of habitat connectivity they require to prosper in a changing world.

HB 2025 Sections 111 and 117 would be a sound step in the right direction, of promoting a win-win situation, for transportation safety and wildlife health. Please support the annual allocation of \$10 million per biennium that Sections 111 and 117 of HB 2025 would provide for Oregon's ecological future.

Thank you for receiving public comments during this busy time.