



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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**Testimony in Support of
HB 2834
The Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Act**

Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

For the record I am Karl Findling, Lands Conservation Director for the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). OHA with over 10,000 members in 26 chapters statewide, is in full support of HB 2834.

The successful passage of HB2834 would be a critical step in providing ODFW, ODOT and a dozen partnering organizations, a framework to reduce future vehicle-wildlife collisions across our state. Annually, vehicle-animal collisions cost Oregonian's tens of millions of dollars and usually ends with a wildlife death, potential human injury or fatality.

Barriers to animal migration are human created impacts to normal seasonal and diurnal movements of wildlife, unmanaged recreation, development, wildlife unfriendly fencing but largely, highways that bisect migratory corridors, between seasonal habitats. ODOT and ODFW possess good data to support migration corridor hot-spots and the requisite placement of future passages in or near these places.

As more Oregonian's occupy historic winter range, such as in Bend (where the annual toll of deer killed by automobiles is over 200), increased vehicle-wildlife collisions has become the norm. Bend is surrounded by federal lands, HB 2834 is the key to unlocking federal assistance to our cities, and state, prioritizing and enhancing critical migratory corridors and winter range.

HB2834 provides Oregon with an opportunity to not only slow the decline of some species of wildlife, but to slow the costs, injuries and loss of life associated with animal-vehicle collisions; this is a massive step in the right direction.

Oregon cannot stand by the sidelines and let this opportunity disappear to protect its citizens and wildlife for the good of future generations. HB2834 gives our state agencies the tools and the resources to make Oregon a safe place to live, recreate and enjoy our wildlife.

Please support HB 2834. That concludes my testimony and I will be glad to answer any questions.