

March 13, 2019

To: Exhibits HNR

Subject: Support for House Bills 2829 and 2834

To the members of the House Committee on Natural Resources: Re. Brad Witt, Rep. Chris Gorsek, Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Rep. Greg Barreto, Rep. Caddy McKeown, Rep. Jeff Reardon, and Rep. David Brock Smith

I have been a volunteer member of Protect Animal Migration (PAM), a non-profit organization that partners with public agencies such as ODFW, ODOT, and the Deschutes National Forest Service, to advocate for barrier free migration along wildlife corridors for a number of species. As a volunteer, I was available to provide outreach and public education through presentations and films to Deschutes County Neighborhood Associations and the public at large. The presentations provided information on the mule deer and elk that share habitat with humans in and around Deschutes County. Their need to migrate is in direct conflict with our development and roads. They get stranded in our yards and Animal Vehicle Collisions (AVC) are in the thousands each year costing over \$6000.00 per deer. We could lose mule deer as a species here in Central Oregon. Their populations have been in decline for 20 years. I have witnessed, through these presentations, the public's concern and motivation to find solutions.

The loss of wildlife species and habitat may lead to declining recreational opportunities, tourist dollars, and quality of life. These bills will provide resources needed to preserve and maintain the quality of life we have here in Oregon. The wildlife crossings that have been built to this point have reduced collisions and fatalities by 90%. Oregon has built 3 crossings to date, compared too much higher numbers in surrounding states. This is a proven and cost effective solution.

I hope the committee will pass these much needed House Bills for the benefit of the wildlife and the lifestyle we enjoy in Oregon.

Kary Cotter