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To: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter

Date: March 14, 2019

RE: House Bill 2834

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of House Bill 2834.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect wildlife in our state, we believe HB 2834 – the Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing act – would be a major step toward providing state agencies with mechanisms to both protect wildlife and reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions across our state. As you are no doubt aware, such collisions cost Oregonians millions of dollars each year and usually end with a wildlife death and human injury. Taking steps to remove barriers to animal migration and create safe road crossings and wildlife corridors is a common-sense way to reduce those impacts on wildlife and Oregon citizens.

The Sierra Club believes that House Bill 2834's provisions for ODFW and ODOT to create a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan is a great first step toward implementing the protections we need in Oregon. We therefore strongly support this bill and urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance to the Committee.