



February 2, 2022

Re: Support & written testimony for HB 4130-1

To the House Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources:

On behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and our thousands of supporters across Oregon, we respectfully submit this written testimony in support of HB 4130-1 – The Wildlife Crossing Investment Act. Based in Jackson County, Oregon, KS Wild advocates for the conservation and stewardship of public lands, waterways, and wildlife of the region.

For the past few years, our organization has been working in concert with wildlife advocates, private landowners, and scientists across southwest Oregon’s Siskiyou region on various efforts to educate the public about important wildlife migration routes in the area. The Siskiyou Crest, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and the Rogue-Umpqua divide are all areas that stand out as having exceptional biodiversity and habitat values. We believe HB 4130-1 represents an important step in securing investments for wildlife corridor projects that benefit deer, elk, black bear, mountain lions, Pacific fishers, and various aquatic species in this region.

We are pleased to support this bill not only as an individual organization but also as a “member” of the newly developed Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossings Coalition (SOWCC). Along with the testimony provided by SOWCC to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, we support the allocation of \$7 million in HB 4130-1. Targeted investments in wildlife corridors and infrastructure would benefit places like the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, where Interstate 5 cuts a wide path through the Siskiyou Crest. As noted in the [2018 Cascade-Siskiyou Connectivity study](#) (Selberg Institute & Frost), this is a critical linkage area where wildlife migrate east-to-west between Oregon and California’s coastal mountains to the volcanic peaks of the Cascade mountain range. Interstate 5 is a major impediment to wildlife and the site of many roadkill reports.

We are excited about Oregon’s efforts to catch up to our other western neighbors when it comes to investing in safer roads for people and wildlife. Thank you to the Oregon Legislature and House Environment and Natural Resources Committee for providing this opportunity to support HB 4130-1. At the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, we support protecting historic migratory corridors as vital to the health and resilience of wildlife populations in the face of development and a changing climate.

For the Wild,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Dotson'.

*Michael Dotson, Executive Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center*