



**Testimony Before the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**February 2, 2022**

**Submitted by Jim McCauley, Legislative Director - League of Oregon Cities**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, members of the Committee I am providing these comments in support of HB 4133. As you know this legislation provides a funding source and policy direction to Oregon's Department of Transportation for improving wildlife crossings at specific projects around the state. We also support Rep. Helm's -1 amendment, which provides ODOT with the flexibility to use the funds for projects associated with tribal governments, local governments, and private entities.

We believe there is public safety value in both rural and urban areas of Oregon that have a high frequency of wildlife crossings. That value is not just the reducing the risk of damage to vehicles, but also the risk to individuals driving and of course the loss of wildlife. We understand the benefits of this program could result in reducing the losses in Oregon significantly. It's a program that is certainly worthy of support from the League of Oregon Cities.