

February 2, 2022

Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 8597  
Medford, OR 97501

Subject: HB 4130

The Rogue Valley Audubon Society (RVAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society with over 500 members in Jackson County. We strongly support HB 4130, with the amendment to increase the appropriated funds to \$7 million. RVAS is a member of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition to improve wildlife passage along I-5 in Southern Oregon. This is an area of critical wildlife connectivity between the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains, and I-5 poses a major barrier to the passage of species ranging from deer and elk to fishers to quail to salamanders. The SOWCC project supports our conservation goals to protect the birds and other wildlife of southern Oregon. Providing wildlife crossings on I-5 is also vital for public safety, to minimize wildlife-vehicle collisions.

The money that HB 4130 would make available is critical to implement wildlife crossings like those under study by the SOWCC. It will leverage much great federal funding, and achieve the goals of greater safety for the travelling public, and for Oregon's magnificent wildlife.

Sincerely,

Pepper Trail

Pepper Trail, Conservation Co-Chair  
Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
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