



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ELK FOUNDATION**

Testimony Before Oregon House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

February 2, 2022

Subject: HB 4130 and 4130-1– Wildlife Crossing Investment Act

Chair Marsh and members of the Committee

My name is Bill Richardson, and I live southwest of Philomath, Oregon. I am the Senior Conservation Program Manager – Western United States for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and I am writing on the Foundations behalf.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a national non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. The Elk Foundation also works to open, secure, and improve public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

I am writing to state the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports HB 4130 and HB 4130-1.

The need for wildlife corridor road crossings is widely recognized. Such crossings will provide both for safety of the motoring public and protect the wildlife.

HB 4130 and 4130-1 will enable Oregon to compete for Federal Funds for wildlife crossings with state funding to match Federal dollars to improve wildlife crossing and ensure public safety on Oregon highways.

I want to thank the committee and legislators for their good work on HB 4130 and 4130-1 and for their commitment to continue this work through HB 4130 and 4130-1. This bill and amendment will provide funding that will be key to finding solutions to ensure that Oregon's highways do not remain a barrier to the wildlife that Oregonians value.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for HB 4130 and 4130-1.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson
Sr. Conservation Program Manager - Western
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation