

Submitter: David Kracke

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2999

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is David Kracke, and I am Oregon's Brain Injury Advocate Coordinator with the Center on Brain Injury Research and Training (CBIRT) at the University of Oregon. I submit this statement in support of HB 2999.

Automobile collisions are one of the leading causes of brain injury in Oregon, and in certain parts of our state, collisions between automobiles and wildlife that result in brain injuries to the occupants of the vehicle are, unfortunately, too common. Anything we can do to reduce the number of those collisions will reduce the incidence of brain injury in Oregon.

A person with a moderate or severe brain injury will likely access tens of thousands of dollars in state resources during the course of their life. While medical expenses alone can account for a majority of those expenses, there are also issues surrounding the loss of employment, loss of housing resources, and many others that will be a burden on state resources.

In addition to these financial losses, the loss of quality of life for the brain injury survivor is profound. If even a single severe brain injury is avoided as a result of a wildlife crossing, the investment in these crossings will have been worth it. Knowing that many such injuries will be avoided over the life of the crossing makes supporting this bill an easy decision for me.

Thank you for considering my position, and I urge you to support this important bill, and while doing so, help prevent serious brain injuries for Oregon motorists for decades to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Kracke

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