

Submitter: Amy Hunter

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2999

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2999

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Honorable Members of the
Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2999.

Across Oregon, the combined effects of development, roads, climate change, and human activity are taking a toll on both wildlife and their habitat. Wildlife are integral to the health and wellbeing of Central Oregon, as they provide numerous ecological benefits, and their countless deaths by vehicles can be avoided. We can look to the success of the wildlife crossing both here in Central Oregon and in California as replicable models.

HB 2999 would provide important support to help address wildlife habitat connectivity and motorist safety concerns across the state by:

- Strengthening the Oregon Department of Transportation's program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and implement mitigation projects.
- Allocating \$5 million to support on-the-ground work to reconnect wildlife corridors, building upon previous investments by the legislature.
- Improving Oregon's ability to compete for the unprecedented federal funding currently available through the IJJA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program and other federal grant programs.

For these reasons I strongly support HB 2999 and ask that you pass HB 2999 during the 2023 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Amy Hunter
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and
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