

Charles Humphreys

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Wednesday, February 08, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, OR

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

Through this testimony I am asking you to help pass HB 2999 into law.

I travel almost daily on Highway 20 near Sisters, a stretch that has more deer and elk wildlife collisions than anywhere else in Oregon. In 2021, my SUV was totaled in a collision with an elk cow; I and my family survived but it was a wakeup call for me that it is time to take action to protect all of us. With continued development and human activity in the region, the toll on both wildlife and people is likely only to increase. We owe it to ourselves, and to our wildlife, to take responsible action.

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 IJA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program and other federal grant programs.

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

Sincerely,



Charles Humphreys  
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