

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. 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.

As a property owner in one of the "hotspots" along Rte 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake, the risk of hitting a mule deer and causing extensive damage/death is a very real threat for me. For these reasons I strongly support HB 2999 and ask that you pass HB 2999 during the 2023 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Michael Deal
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