

Submitter: Lauren Hobson

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2999

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2999.

I'm a native Oregonian and have lived here for most of my adult life. My parents are from Medford and Baker City, and I've spent time in almost every corner of the state. I'm lucky to have grown up in such an incredible place, where I got to spend my youth watching wildlife and exploring our verdant forests. As an adult though, I feel like I've noticed a significant change every time I go outside--there are fewer animals, and many of them meet their ends on roadsides. This isn't acceptable to me. A strong community takes care of all its members, including wildlife. HB 2999 tries to do that.

Across Oregon, the combined effects of development, roads, climate change, and human activity are taking a toll on both wildlife and their habitat. That's why I support HB 2999, which 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.

With hope,

Lauren Hobson  
Milwaukie, Oregon