

Co-Chair Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 2978.

As someone who has almost been in an accident with deer crossing and highways near while traveling in Oregon, I want to see accidents reduced and wildlife given a fighting chance to thrive in our vast wilderness.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective and Oregon needs more crossing structures. HB 2978 and an option for permanent state-level funding to support wildlife crossing initiatives will:

- Improve the safety of Oregon's roadways
- Remove barriers to wildlife
- Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding

Please build on the important progress at the state legislature over the past five years by passing HB 2978.

Sincerely,

Denise LaBuda  
Bend Resident