

Submitter: Susanna DeFazio

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

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

Please do everything in your power to pass HB 2978.

As a rural resident of Oregon (35 years living in the Central Oregon Coast Range and 10+ years living surrounded by the Deschutes National Forest west of Sisters) I am constantly saddened at the sight of wildlife roadkill. I also feel extremely at risk for my own safety and that of my children driving to and from our homes on rural roads. A dear friend suffered a broken neck from a crash caused by swerving to avoid a deer. He barely survived. I myself have hit a deer. I thankfully suffered no injuries, unlike the deer.

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,  
Susanna DeFazio