

Submitter: Annette Parsons

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

Urge SUPPORT for Wildlife Crossings on Oregon's Roadways??

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

Please build on the important progress at the state legislature in recent years by passing HB 2978.

My husband and I have lived in SW Oregon's Applegate Valley for over 30 years and frequently travel out of the area on major highways. It always feels like a travesty when we see so many road-killed animals along our roadways. Traffic kills these beautiful animals, whose existence and healthy populations are vital to our own existence and health, as a species in the web of life and biodiversity on Planet Earth. We have no right to assume that our "important" business to travel here and yon is more important than the health of our wildlife. And besides all that, it is an enormous hazard to the life and safety of the occupants of the vehicles that are striking the wildlife.

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

- \* Improve the safety of Oregon's roadways
- \* Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding
- \* Remove barriers that prevent animals from finding food, shelter, and mates

I strongly support HB 2978 and I hope you will seize this opportunity to prioritize public safety and restore wildlife habitat connectivity.

Sincerely,