

Submitter: Kari Giberson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

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.

I am deeply proud of our state's recent additions of wildlife crossings along highway 97. As someone who has witnessed a deer + vehicle collision, and also witnessed a mother deer trying to cross highway 97 safely with her fawn, I understand how dangerous our roads are for wildlife. I see a future for Oregon where a well-connected landscape allows our mule deer to move freely, find safe access to food and water, and adapt to environmental changes.

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! I hope you will seize this opportunity to prioritize public safety and restore wildlife habitat connectivity.

Sincerely,
Kari Giberson