

Submitter: Jack Bennett

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 live in rural Deschutes Co and there is a lot of wildlife here who need protection when they cross roads. We need to do all we can to support our forests and their 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,  
Jack Bennett