

Submitter: Tracy Boyer

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:

I strongly support HB 2978.

I have had the unfortunate experience of colliding with a deer while driving. Thankfully I wasn't hurt, however the deer was maimed and struggled to get to the side of the road where I'm sure it died a painful death. It's not something you can forget. While I was visiting the Canadian Rockies last fall, I was so encouraged by the NUMEROUS wildlife crossings they have installed. Not only were they attractive (built with foliage, trees and natural looking barriers) but they are HIGHLY effective!! Studies have shown that they reduce wildlife accidents by approximately 80%. From the Canadian Park website:

The 49 crossing structures (42 underpasses and 7 overpasses) reduced wildlife collisions by more than 80%, and by over 96% for elk and deer alone. Jul 16, 2024 Making roads safer for wildlife at Parks Canada

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,  
Tracy Boyer  
Bend, Oregon