

Submitter: Patricia Green

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.

[ADD A FEW SENTENCES OF PERSONAL INFO - Describe where you live and where you drive often. Or, tell a short story about an accident or near accident with wildlife you've witnessed. Or, explain why you value healthy, connected habitat for wildlife. If you have professional or academic background on this topic, describe that.]

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
- * Wildlife attempting to cross in unprotected locations take a substantial toll on cars, people and the animals every year. Where crossings have been built, fatalities and damage have declined sharply.

- * Wildlife crossings remove barriers that prevent animals from finding food, shelter, and mates. Increased development and traffic have isolated animal populations, contributing to their decline. Wildlife crossings provide safe, interconnected habitat, so population levels and genetic diversity can be maintained.

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

Sincerely,
Patricia Green