

Submitter: Jacqueline Wilson

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:

Thank you for your service to Oregonians and your concern for land use. I strongly support HB 2978 and encourage you to move this bill forward.

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 safety on Oregon's roadways

Enable wildlife to follow their ancient migration routes

Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding

I have lived in Bend for 24 years. I've experienced the effects increased traffic on the mule deer migration path first hand as resident in Tumalo. I live along the Deschutes River on Cline Falls Road. Deer collisions on Hwy 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake are devastating, but they are NOT our only problem! With the expansive growth of Eagle Crest and the forthcoming Thornburg resort, the traffic on Cline Falls Road has created a barrier for the mule deer's natural migration to the Deschutes river and back. Countless numbers of does and bucks are struck and left to die on this stretch of highway. We have a responsibility to do whatever we can secure funding for wildlife barriers wherever loss of wildlife has occurred. I hope that with the passage of HB 2978 more attention will be paid to this crisis and wildlife barriers can be secured on Hwy 20 as well as a serious study of the detrimental effects of high speed traffic on Cline Falls Road. A small change like decreasing the speed limit from 55 to 45 mph on this sensitive section of Cline Falls Road between Innes Market and Highland could have a huge impact on the mule deer population and it wouldn't require an expensive wildlife crossing.

Please work to pass HB 2978

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Wilson  
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