

Submitter: Jenni Conrad

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.

After moving to Oregon from Washington State, where wildlife crossings are common on many highways, I was surprised to find Oregon has so few. These simple structures are so effective for supporting the ecosystems (wildlife, water, forest) we absolutely depend on - but often forget about, while protecting human travelers as well. The cost of not installing them is high, but often obscured. Let's not kid ourselves!

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,
Jenni Conrad