

Submitter: Diane Randgaard

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 progress at the state legislature in recent years by passing HB 2978.

I have had an interest in wildlife crossings since I studied them in college 30 years ago. Wildlife habitat connectivity matters, and the lack of consideration of ecological connectivity when roads were constructed ought to be righted NOW, aiding sensitive species that avoid roads and other species that cross roads, with traffic collisions resulting.

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 take this opportunity to prioritize restoring wildlife habitat connectivity and public safety.

Sincerely,
Diane Randgaard
Terrebonne, Oregon