

Submitter: David 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.

I live in Bend and drive regularly to the Sisters area on US 20 to do volunteer work. I often see mule deer carcasses along the highway, victims of traffic collisions. Between the highway with near bumper-to-bumper traffic for much of the day on many days of the year, and the proliferation of difficult to cross fences along the highway, the mule deer have very little chance of crossing the highway safely. With a declining mule deer population in Central Oregon, we need to work to protect deer and other wildlife by installing safe crossings of our highways for wildlife.

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 seize this opportunity to prioritize public safety and restore wildlife habitat connectivity.

Sincerely,
David Green