

Submitter: Karon Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 2978. I live in Bend, where the native deer population is declining from year to year. Hundreds of deer are killed every year by vehicles as they try to cross our roads. This results in hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to personal property and personal injury, and has a devastating effect on the deer population. Remember, when a single animal is killed we don't just lose that individual: we lose all the generations it would have produced.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective: they reduce injury to people's persons and property and preserve wildlife, which is under constant pressure from climate change and human populations. They are a smart financial investment: relatively inexpensive to build and maintain, and the benefits last for lifetimes.

Please pass HB 2978. We need a dedicated state-level funding initiative that will enable wildlife crossing to be incorporated into every road built in Oregon. It's so smart.

Thanks,
Karon Johnson