

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.

Several years ago I was on Highway 20 at Fryrear Road between Sisters and Bend when a large buck coming from the west crashed into my car, denting the passenger's side door. His antlers got tangled in the side-view mirror which he wrenched off the car, leaving it dangling by its wires. He was able to run away, for which I was very grateful, and I felt lucky that I was uninjured and no more damage was done to my car. Fortunately I was going relatively slowly, having just turned onto Highway 20, and there were no cars following, in which case there could have been a much more serious accident.

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,
[YOUR NAME]