

Submitter: Barb Meyers

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.

In 2015, we were tragically involved in a collision with a deer on Highway 20, which resulted in severe injuries to the animal and significant damage to our vehicle. While we were grateful that no humans were injured, it was a deeply disturbing experience.

Now living in the Sunriver area of Central Oregon, we frequently drive on Highway 97 between Bend and La Pine. We have a deep appreciation for the wildlife crossings here that help prevent countless collisions during the east-west mule deer migration periods in the spring and fall.

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,

Mark and Barb Meyers