

Submitter: Charlotte Mountain

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. Oregon is home to a diversity of animals that take refuge in the relatively remote areas of the state. However, even in remote areas, roads severely fragment and degrade the quality of habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife crossings are a highly effective tool that should be widely implemented.

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.