



**OREGON  
WILD**

Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use,  
Natural Resources, and Water

From: Oregon Wild

Re: Support HB 2978

Date: February 4, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2978, improving critical wildlife connectivity and increasing safety on Oregon's highways.

For the past fifty years, Oregon Wild has been dedicated to protecting Oregon's waters, wild lands, and wildlife. And we're honored to stand in support of HB 2978 beside the wide range of Oregonians who have shared with you their own stories and passion for wildlife connectivity.

As you know, auto collisions with wildlife are extremely costly and harmful to Oregonians \*and\* the leading cause of death for many cherished Oregon animals. Your investments in previous legislative sessions have resulted in amazing work by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identifying the landscape-scale movement of whole animal populations and in partnership with the Department of Transportation identifying priority connectivity crossings on ODOT infrastructure.

Please leverage these investments and information and take the next step to clear away administrative hurdles to establishing crossings, to cross-educate staff at state agencies so that they work together well, and fund the next phase of important wildlife crossings. HB 2978 is a crucial piece of legislation that builds upon connectivity work of previous sessions; it is the kind of thing legislators should dream about: investment begets knowledge begets solutions.

Let's keep the momentum. Improving wildlife connectivity is truly a win / win. We have the tools, the knowledge, and the people; Oregon is ready.

Thank you for supporting HB 2978!

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla  
Oregon Wild