

Submitter: Rex Parks Sr  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Hunters Association- Bend Chapter  
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:

Thank you for your service to Oregonians and your concern for land use! I strongly support HB 2978 and encourage you to move this bill forward.

I am the President of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association and one of the members of the B2S Wildlife Crossings coalition. I live along highway 20 between Sisters and Bend and travel the stretch of highway these wildlife overpasses will impact on an almost daily basis.

The Bend Chapter of OHA has been a supporter of wildlife crossings since the conversation first came to light. Our chapter is the group of volunteers that are responsible for the maintenance of the fences on highway 97 for the current crossings between Lava Butte and Sunriver, as well as for the crossings near Gilchrist. We will also be taking on the maintenance of these fences once these overpasses are completed.

Our chapter is well aware of the importance that these crossings are to the sustainability of our wildlife that live near Oregon's busy roadways and need to safely cross. We have seen firsthand how highly effective they are, and that Oregon needs more crossing structures.

HB 2978 and an option for permanent state-level funding to support the wildlife crossing initiatives will:

Improve safety on Oregon's roadways- not just for the passage of the wildlife, but for the motoring public

Enable wildlife to follow their ancient migration routes- the collar tracking data shows mule deer cross these busy roadways multiple times each year

Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding

Please work to pass HB 2978.

Sincerely,

Rex E Parks Sr  
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