



Dear Chairman Helm, Vice Chair Finger McDonald and Owens, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2978. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support for passing HB 2978. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

Wildlife relies on habitat connectivity, especially as climate change is driving habitat loss and degradation. HB 2978 is an important measure that improves Oregon's existing Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019 by requiring ODOT to consult with ODFW to minimize impacts to wildlife connectivity; improving departmental communication, coordination, and stakeholder engagement; and creating a Departmental training program.

OCN members have designated the 2025 transportation package a priority and HB 2978 is one key part of that package. [Here is a link to OCN's 2025 Priorities.](#)

Thank you for your time. I ask for your support of HB 2978.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Sincerely,
Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Phone: 208-451-4794 | email: eliza@olcv.org

Submitted On behalf of OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon | Association of Oregon Recyclers | Beyond Toxics | Bird Alliance of Oregon | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Center for Food Safety | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Defenders of Wildlife | Deschutes River Alliance | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | The Environmental Center | Environment Oregon | Food & Water Watch | Friends of Mt. Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Family Farmers | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter | The Street Trust | Surfrider Foundation | Trout Unlimited, Oregon Council | Tualatin Riverkeepers | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wetlands Conservancy | Wild Salmon Center | Willamette Riverkeeper