

Submitter: Dennis Patrick Sheehy
On Behalf Of: Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association supports, with qualifications, HB 2978. We appreciate the need to avoid vehicle-wildlife collisions. During certain periods of the year, especially fall, winter and spring, normal ranch activities such as feeding and/or checking livestock during the night and periods of limited daylight increases opportunities for wildlife-vehicles collision. Providing alternatives to wildlife to avoid direct crossing of busy interstate and state highways will benefit both wildlife and vehicle operators.

Qualifications:

1. Section 1, (2) (e) (A) As well as ODFW, in developing a list of priority projects, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Farm Bureau should be included in the consultation. Rationale: Often private property is, or will be impacted by wildlife crossing transportation corridors. Although the crossing infrastructure may be situated on public land, much of the land along the transportation corridor will be privately owned.

2. Section 2: (3) (e) The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Farm Bureau and other entities with vested interest as landowners and/or users should be included as members of the Advisory Group. Rationale: same as previous, (i.e., transportation corridors tend to pass through valleys, Consequently, most of the surrounding land is privately owned, and the location of most development including farms, ranches and cities. Much of the valley and surrounding hill land is also seasonal habitat for ungulate wildlife. Unless these factors are considered, solving one problem will create other problems equably difficult to resolve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2978
Oregon Cattlemen's Association Wildlife Committee
Dennis P. Sheehy/Shane Gomes. Co-chairs