

To: House Committee on Ag and Land Use
From: Aileen Kaye
Date: 2-5-25

Re: "Yes" on HB 2978 Wildlife Crossings

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Ken Helm and Mark Owens and Vice-Chair Sarah McDonald ,

I ask you to vote YES on HB 2978 which concerns safety for wildlife and humans.

I noticed there is now a -1 version, but I don't know what changes that brings. If it makes the bill stronger regarding protecting wildlife, I support the -1 version.

I was shocked that Oregon has fewer crossings than the states listed below. I got this info from the letter submitted to you recently by the Pew Trust:

"Despite a higher rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions than other west coast states, based on an analysis by State Farm Insurance, Oregon has fallen behind other western states in the construction of wildlife crossings. As of 2022, Oregon has five such structures, while Washington state has more than 30, Colorado has 69, Nevada has 23 for large mammals alone, Wyoming has 20, and Utah has 50. The investments by the 2022 and 2023 legislature have yielded important results, yet more remains to be done."

I hope this bill makes it through the 2025 legislature and is passed. I appreciate Chair Helm's work on this and was pleased to see the large coalition of groups who signed onto his letter of testimony.

Thank you for your time.