

Submitter: Melissa Turnbull
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362
Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I am an Oregon resident asking you to support HB 3362.

Each year in OR, there are over 7000 wildlife-vehicle collisions with large animals. On average, four people die and over 500 people are seriously injured. The cost of these collisions on Oregon roadways is likely more than \$100 million per year.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Wildlife crossing structures are a proven, popular and cost effective technique to improve public safety and restore habitat connectivity.

Oregon needs a permanent source of funding to implement state programs and projects to improve motorist and wildlife safety. Permanent funding would include: 1) Improve the safety of OR's roadways 2) remove barriers to wildlife and 3) make OR more competitive in capturing federal funding.

Please protect both our wildlife and our communities by supporting HB 3362. I personally have seen how well these wildlife crossings work and how readily animals take to them. I have also witnessed countless times the consequences of animal vehicle collisions - often times the animal is gravely injured but still alive and there is no immediate remedy to alleviate their suffering which is heartbreaking. I will never forget the scream of a fawn that had been hit but not killed that I helped from the roadway after the fact.

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Melissa Turnbull