

Submitter: Rex Parks Sr
On Behalf Of: Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

Co-Chair Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I was born in Oregon and lived here all my life. I am the current President of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association. I am asking that you to support HB 3362.

Each year in Oregon, there are over 7,000 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 each year.

Wildlife crossing structures are a proven cost-effective way to improve public safety and restore habitat connectivity.

The Bend Chapter of the OHA is the NGO that has taken on the responsibility to monitor and make needed repairs to the fencing that directs wildlife to the few under crossings that have already been placed along highway 97. The Bend chapter and the OHA state chapter have been long time advocates for these wildlife crossings.

We have seen firsthand the need for Oregon to establish a dedicated fund to assure the continued construction and maintenance of safe wildlife crossings for all wildlife as well as for the motoring public.

Although I'd like to see a full 1/3 of the funds raised through this bill dedicated to wildlife crossings to help in curbing the severe decline in our states mule deer populations, this bill is by far a great step in the right direction.

Please protect both our wildlife and our communities by supporting HB 3362.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Best regards,

Rex E Parks Sr
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