



P.O. Box 101, Camp Sherman, Oregon 97730
www.friendsofthemetolius.org

March 3, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for HB 3362

Dear Co-Chairs Gorse and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Davis, and Members of the Committee,

Friends of the Metolius is submitting this letter in support of HB 3362.

Friends of the Metolius is a conservation organization that limits its stewardship to the Metolius Basin. The only realistic way to access the Metolius Basin is from Highway 20, coming from either the east or the west. As such, we are very familiar with the serious problems arising from wildlife – vehicle collisions on Highway 20, and the need for solutions to alleviate those problems.

According to studies conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Highway 20 crosses several important wildlife movement corridors for mule deer, elk, and other wildlife between Bend and Suttle Lake. The Oregon Department of Transportation says that this section of highway sees the highest density of deer and elk wildlife-vehicle collisions in the entire state, with 350 to 600 mule deer and elk killed yearly by vehicle strikes, posing a significant barrier to the movement of terrestrial wildlife. From Bend, this section of highway travels through the communities of Tumalo, Plainview, Cloverdale, Sisters, Tollgate, and Black Butte Ranch. Individuals traveling and commuting along this stretch of Highway 20 face an increased risk of colliding with large-bodied animals, posing a severe danger to life, property, and wildlife. Sadly, many of us who live in the Metolius Basin have personally experienced such collisions.

Wildlife crossing structures are a proven solution that would greatly improve the safety of Oregon's roadways and remove barriers to wildlife. Oregon needs a permanent funding source that can be used to fund wildlife crossings and HB 3362 would provide that funding source.

Please support HB 3363. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Hancock
President

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