

Submitter: Karen Mager  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

I am writing to express strong support for HB 3362. I am particularly supportive of the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund that would be funded by the tire tax. Wildlife-vehicle collisions cost motorists and insurance companies billions of dollars per year. Investments in reducing collisions are a win-win for everyone: motorists and animals. I am a wildlife ecologist and faculty member at SOU, and together with my students we have studied wildlife use of the I-5 corridor in southern Oregon where a wildlife overpass is slated to be built. We know that this area has high rates of wildlife-vehicle collisions and is a key location for wildlife connectivity across the highway, and we have documented substantial biodiversity including state sensitive species. Anecdotally, we see road-killed deer, bears, foxes, and other animals nearly every time we go out to do our fieldwork. There are many areas of Oregon like ours that need investment to improve wildlife passage to protect drivers and wildlife populations.