

Submitter: Charles Schelz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3362

I am in full support of HB3362 because of the importance of a healthy environment for our citizens, and because of the importance of protecting healthy ecological systems for our own existence and the health of the planet. It is so important to be aware of and plan thoroughly transportation infrastructures and activities that have significant impacts on both wildlife and water quality. Here's a breakdown of the key issues that HB 3362 attempts to mitigate:

#### Impacts on Wildlife:

**Habitat Loss and Fragmentation:** Roads, railways, and other transportation infrastructure directly destroy habitats. They also fragment remaining habitats, isolating wildlife populations and reducing their ability to find food, mates, and shelter. **Wildlife Mortality:** Vehicle collisions are a major cause of wildlife deaths, affecting a wide range of species. This "roadkill" can have significant impacts on population numbers, especially for endangered or slow-reproducing species. **Disruption of Movement:** Roads and railways can act as barriers, preventing animals from moving between habitats. This can disrupt migration patterns, breeding cycles, and access to essential resources. **Behavioral Changes:** Noise and disturbance from traffic can cause animals to avoid certain areas, altering their behavior and distribution. This can lead to reduced reproductive success and increased stress levels. **Genetic Isolation:** Habitat fragmentation can lead to genetic isolation of wildlife populations, reducing genetic diversity and making them more vulnerable to disease and other threats.

#### Impacts on Water Quality:

**Pollutant Runoff:** Roads and parking lots are sources of various pollutants, including tire fragments and debris, oil, grease, heavy metals, and de-icing chemicals. These pollutants can be washed into waterways by rain, contaminating surface and groundwater. This is a serious threat to human health. **Sedimentation:** Construction and road use erosion from roadsides can increase sediment runoff into streams and rivers, degrading water quality and harming aquatic habitats. This can be an extreme environmental problem, especially to our most important ecological systems, such as riparian areas and wet meadows. **Chemical Spills:** Transportation accidents happen all the time and can result in spills of hazardous materials, which can have devastating impacts on water quality and aquatic life. **Changes in Hydrology:** Roads and other infrastructure alter natural drainage patterns, leading to increased runoff and flooding, which can erode stream banks and degrade water quality. This is especially important during these times of extreme climate change and intense weather events.

Mitigation Recommendations:

Fortunately, there are efforts to mitigate these impacts, including: Wildlife Crossing Structures: Overpasses and underpasses that allow animals to safely cross roads. Habitat Restoration: Restoring and protecting habitats to offset the impacts of transportation infrastructure. Stormwater Management: Implementing measures to reduce pollutant runoff from roads and parking lots. Careful Planning: Incorporating wildlife and water quality considerations into transportation planning and design.

HB3362 is an important and sincere attempt to utilize these effective mitigation measures. For the good of the people and ecology of Oregon I highly recommend that HB3362 be approved.

Thank you.