

Submitter: Michelle Casey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I urge the committee to include \$5 million per year of dedicated funding in ODOT's budget for the construction of wildlife crossings. This will enable the construction of an additional 20 wildlife fencing and structure projects over the next 30 years, reducing the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions throughout the state.

Oregon has already benefited from several wildlife crossings that have decreased dangerous collisions. For example, Oregon's Highway 97 crossing project has reduced deer-vehicle collisions by over 90%. A 2020 poll commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts found that 86% of Oregon voters favor more wildlife crossings, and 75% of voters support increasing state funding to build those crossings.

Please include this funding in the 2025-2027 budget. Thank you.