

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 2978-A.

My name is Laney Houser, and I'm writing today as a concerned Oregonian who has personally experienced the dangers posed by wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Several years ago, while driving on the highway, a deer suddenly jumped onto the road in front of my car. With a semi-truck beside me and no room to swerve or stop in time, I had no choice but to brace for impact. It was a traumatic and heartbreaking moment—and a stark reminder of how vulnerable both humans and animals are on our roadways.

This is not just about my experience. It's about the countless drivers who face similar dangers every year and the devastating toll these collisions take on Oregon's wildlife and families. Wildlife crossings are not just an environmental concern—they are a public safety imperative. These structures have been proven to reduce collisions, save lives, and preserve the natural heritage we all cherish.

I urge you to prioritize funding and support for wildlife crossings across our state. Doing so will protect both people and animals, and make Oregon's roads safer for everyone.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective, and Oregon needs more crossing structures. HB 2978-A and an option for permanent state-level funding to support wildlife crossing initiatives will:

- Improve the safety of Oregon's roadways
- Remove barriers to wildlife
- Make Oregon more competitive in capturing federal funding

Please build on the important progress at the state legislature over the past five years by passing HB 2978-A.

Sincerely,
Laney Houser
Bend, Oregon
19665 Aspen Ridge Dr

Bend, OR 97702