

Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, and I proudly represent House District 58.

I'm writing today in strong support of House Bill 2978, a thoughtful and collaborative effort that strengthens Oregon's approach to wildlife-vehicle collision prevention and habitat connectivity.

In Eastern Oregon, we are all too familiar with the dangers posed by wildlife-vehicle collisions—not just in terms of safety, but also in the loss of game species that are vital to our hunting heritage, rural economies, and natural resource balance. HB 2978 builds on proven strategies, like the Highway 97 wildlife undercrossing near Lava Butte, which has successfully provided safe passage for over 30 species.

HB 2978 would:

- Expand the Oregon Department of Transportation's Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Program;
- Direct ODOT and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to coordinate on planning, mitigation, and wildlife connectivity strategies;
- Establish an advisory group to ensure consistent collaboration, community input, and shared priorities across agencies and stakeholders;
- Encourage the use of competitive federal grants and matching funds to increase Oregon's capacity to build more wildlife crossings and restore habitat corridors.

This bill is not only about wildlife—it's about public safety, infrastructure planning, and environmental stewardship. By leveraging the collective expertise of conservationists, hunters, transportation planners, and biologists, HB 2978 ensures Oregon is working smarter and more strategically to address this issue.

I strongly support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Bobby Levy
Oregon House District 58