

Submitter: Emily Ziegler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

Dear Oregon Legislator Members,

I am writing today as a concerned and engaged Oregonian to express my strong support for HB 2978-A, a critical policy bill that will enhance Oregon's existing connectivity law and help protect both our wildlife and drivers.

Wildlife crossings are highly effective, and Oregon urgently needs more of them. HB 2978-A, along with a permanent state-level funding mechanism for wildlife crossing initiatives, will:

Improve the safety of Oregon's roadways by reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions

Remove barriers to wildlife, allowing for safe migration and movement across the landscape

Make Oregon more competitive in securing federal infrastructure and conservation funding

As you know, HB 2978-A would require the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to update its wildlife guidance materials, engineering standards, and highway specifications — important steps that will bring our transportation planning in line with modern ecological understanding. The bill also encourages deeper collaboration between ODOT and community partners including tribes, landowners, conservation groups, and local governments.

I'm pleased that HB 2978-A passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water with a "do pass" recommendation, and I strongly urge you to support its passage on the House Floor and, ultimately, in the Senate.

Additionally, I encourage you to support the creation of a dedicated, long-term funding mechanism for ODOT's wildlife-vehicle collision reduction program, as outlined in ORS 366.161. More than 6,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions are reported in Oregon each year — a number that likely underrepresents the true scale of the issue. A stable funding stream is essential for building and maintaining crossing structures that protect both people and wildlife.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a safer, more sustainable Oregon. I hope you will support this forward-thinking legislation and help our state lead the

way in wildlife-friendly infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Emily Ziegler  
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