

Submitter: Joseph Craig
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

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

I strongly support HB 2978-A. Oregon has a vital need for safe passage on our highways, with over 6,100 wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) recorded six years ago in 2019, and at least twice that number unreported (ODOT, unpublished data). Oregon, with only 5 wildlife crossings, significantly trails other western states in addressing this problem. There are now around 1,500 wildlife crossing structures in 43 states and it is time for Oregon to increase the number of wildlife crossing and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

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,

Joseph Craig
Bend, OR