

Submitter: Jean Longwill  
On Behalf Of: My Grandson  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Joint committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

I am writing in support of HB 2025. Habitat loss and fragmentation are making it harder for wildlife to get where they need to go to survive. For many species in Oregon, our highways are one of the biggest challenges to their survival. As a case in point, many vulnerable wildlife species are killed in vehicles, including important game species such as the mule deer. In fact mule deer are the most commonly hit animal in Oregon and its population has declined by over 50% in recent years.

According to ODOT, there are over 7,000 collisions per year resulting in over 500 serious human injuries and four fatalities. This is the highest rate among West Coast states. Millions of dollars of damage are incurred every year from such collisions. The good news is that we know that wildlife crossings work. The Lava Butte underpass on HWY 97 in central Oregon has reduced deer collisions by over 90% since construction.

Please vote to protect wildlife as well as people.  
Sincerely,  
Jean Longwill