

June 11, 2025

Re: Support for HB 2025

To the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment,

On behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) and our supporter network across southwest Oregon and the rest of the state, we support the general framework and focus on multi-modal transportation investments within HB 2025. Our staff and community benefit extensively from having walkable, bikeable, and safe routes near our homes and places of work.

For the past few years KS Wild has also been a part of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossings Coalition, which is focused on reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and securing investments for wildlife crossing projects in southern Oregon. Recently with the support and partnership of Oregon's Department of Transportation, we helped secure a \$33 million federal grant to construct Interstate 5's (and Oregon's) first wildlife overpass in the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. In HB 2025, we want to specifically support the provision to allocate and invest \$5 million/year in the safety program that reduces vehicle-wildlife collisions on Oregon's roadways. Support for wildlife crossings has seen bipartisan support over the past few years in the Legislature, and we encourage this committee to advance the bill with the wildlife connectivity funding as part of the package.

For the Wild,

Michael Dotson Executive Director Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center Ashland, Oregon