

Submitter: Adelia Hwang
On Behalf Of: Wildlife crossing funding
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Support HB 2025 sections 111 and 117 to establish the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund at an annual rate of \$10 million per biennium.

I write in support of this legislation on the very same day that I observed a scared young deer at the intersection of SE 12th and Division, lost and heading towards a busy intersection along Powell. This sighting reminds all of us that we live among wildlife that desperately need more habitat crossings in order to avoid collisions that endanger human and animal lives.

Wildlife-vehicle collisions take a costly toll on people and wildlife. For many species in Oregon, including many vulnerable species, highways are one of the biggest challenges to their survival. Wildlife crossings, like the the Lava Butte underpass on HWY 97 in central Oregon, which has reduced deer collisions by over 90% since construction, are successful because they are economical, save lives, prevent injuries, and mitigate habitat fragmentation that threaten some species' long-term survival.

HB 2025 Sections 111 and 117 build upon past efforts of the Legislature to address the problem of the loss of wildlife connectivity and the high rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions by establishing and sustainably funding the "Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund." This would be a significant step in addressing the safety and environmental consequences of habitat fragmentation caused by roadways.

Please strongly consider this request!

Sincerely,
Adelia Hwang