

Submitter: Tari Gunstone  
On Behalf Of: Wildlife Crossing Funding  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and  
Members of the Committee,

I am writing to encourage your support of HB 2025 Sections 111 and 117, which establish the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Fund at an annual rate of \$10 million per biennium.

I was able to see wildlife crossings in action with a herd of elk while driving through Canada, and have been so impressed by the wildlife crossings I've seen in states like Utah and Nevada. Funding these crossings in our state would be a significant step in addressing the safety and environmental consequences of habitat fragmentation caused by roadways and would position Oregon alongside Utah as the only state with annual funding for wildlife crossings. Our state has a reputation for our environmental priorities, let's maintain that with this very effective and on-display solution. We can be a role model to other states.

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 is a smart choice and a safe choice, and honestly a good PR choice for Oregon.

I hope you strongly consider!

Thank you,

Tari Gunstone,  
Born and raised Oregonian, landscape designer, published scientist, photographer