

## <u>Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2025</u> Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment

June 12, 2025

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

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports the provisions in HB 2025 to provide \$10 million in funding for improved wildlife highway crossings.

Improved wildlife highway crossings are a true win-win. They help animals by allowing them to migrate more freely, which is important to their ability to find food and shelter, and to reproduce, as seasons and weather change. They also help animals by reducing the likelihood the animals will be hit by vehicles and killed or injured while trying to cross highways.

Reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions is also good for people. It prevents property damage to vehicles as well as safety risks to drivers and passengers. According to ODOT's 2024 "Transportation Funding Needs" document, there are more than 7,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions per year in Oregon and, on average, four people die and 521 people are seriously injured in those collisions. The wildlife crossing funding in HB 2025 would help to reduce the number of such collisions.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz Director