Submitter: Aubrey Hornor

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,

Please support 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.

Allocating funds to wildlife connectivity efforts would be a big step in mitigating the harmful effects that urbanization is having on wildlife. Connecting fragmented populations is vital to both the conservation process and the survival of species. When habitats and populations are fragmented by roads, they form isolated metapopulations that are significantly more vulnerable to extinction due to reduced gene flow, limited resources, and increased susceptibility to local disturbances. This also seems like an especially easy bill to support since it benefits both people and wildlife, helping to deter vehicle collisions and improve road safety in our communities.

Thank you for taking into account the concerns of the entire community, human and non-human alike.