



June 25, 2025

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Hells Canyon Council (GHCC), a non-profit conservation organization based in Northeast Oregon. We were founded in 1967, and our mission is to connect, protect, and restore the wild lands, waters, native species and habitats of the Greater Hells Canyon Region, ensuring a legacy of healthy ecosystems for future generations.

I'm writing to support passage of HB 2977. While the funds made available by this bill will provide a variety of benefits to our state, we are particularly invested in its ability to provide a sustainable funding source for ODFW's wildlife crossings program.

Where I live in Wallowa County, we have some of the highest rates of wildlife collisions in the state on OR-82. We are concerned for the safety risk to drivers, passengers, and wildlife. To take the stretch of road between Wallowa and Enterprise as an example, from 2009 to 2023, ODOT recorded over 900 incidents of deer and elk-vehicle collisions, each of which can result in thousands of dollars in damage to vehicles as well as the potential for injury to passengers and drivers. Thankfully, properly sited and fenced wildlife crossings are a proven solution that can reduce wildlife collisions by 90%, and our resident mule deer and elk populations need this help as many are significantly below population objectives.

Wallowa County is just one place of many that would benefit from our state having a sustainably funded crossings program. I urge the committee to pass HB 2977.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

*Jamie Dawson*

Jamie Dawson, Conservation Director  
Greater Hells Canyon Council

