



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
OREGON

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Helm, Vice Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of House Bill 2978 on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA). We are a grassroots organization devoted to ensuring that the wild public lands, waters, and wildlife we treasure remain healthy and accessible for future generations of sportsmen and women.

As hunters and anglers, we share a profound obligation to steward the wildlife and wild places that sustain us. Our heritage and our way of life hinge on intact habitats, safe migratory corridors, and thriving populations of fish and game. When these resources are fragmented by roads or vehicle collisions, it not only jeopardizes the well-being of wildlife, but also erodes the foundations of our sporting traditions.

HB 2978 is an essential investment in our collective future. By strengthening collaboration between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, this legislation will:

- **Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions:** Proactively identifying and addressing high-collision zones, coupled with improved data collection and targeted infrastructure (e.g., underpasses, overpasses), helps keep both motorists and wildlife safer.
- **Protect Habitat Connectivity:** Maintaining viable migration routes and winter ranges is critical for healthy herds and healthy ecosystems. By focusing on projects that restore or enhance connectivity, we ensure that Oregon's iconic big game species—and many other wildlife—continue to thrive.
- **Affirm Our Stewardship Values:** Hunters and anglers have long been leaders in conservation funding and efforts. Supporting HB 2978 reflects our shared belief that we must care for the land and wildlife that in turn sustains us—ecologically, economically, and culturally.

In promoting solutions that protect Oregon's natural heritage, this legislation honors the legacy of all who rely on healthy, abundant wildlife. Our members are proud to invest in this important endeavor, knowing that the return on investment is a stronger, safer, and more vibrant Oregon for all.

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, I respectfully urge your "yes" vote on HB 2978. Thank you for considering this testimony, and for your commitment to safeguarding Oregon's fish, wildlife, and outdoor way of life.

Sincerely,

Ian Isaacson
Co-Chair, Oregon Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/OREGON_BHA
OREGON@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG