

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Chair, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit  
H-591 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chair DeFazio, Chair Norton, Ranking Member Graves, and Ranking Member Davis;

As you work to address our nation's infrastructure and reauthorize the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, we urge you to include critical provisions on wildlife-vehicle collision reduction in legislation currently being drafted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Roads that pass through wildlife habitat migration paths can be very dangerous for drivers. Wildlife-vehicle collisions unfortunately kill approximately 200 Americans every year, cause 26,000 injuries, and cost over \$8 billion in damages annually. Roads also threaten the health of America's fish and wildlife populations. When a highway or other structure is built, wildlife habitat can be interrupted or fragmented. Habitat fragmentation makes it difficult for many species to complete seasonal migrations or daily movements in search of food, water and mates. This is a significant issue for wildlife – killing an estimated 1-2 million large mammals every year - as well as a major threat to American motorists.

However, there is a solution. States, tribes, and local communities are working around the country to secure improved data on collision hot-spots and explore ways to make our highways safer for people and wildlife. A variety of available methods, including improved or variable signage, wildlife-friendly underpasses integrated into bridge replacements, or overpasses to direct wildlife safely across highways, can help protect people and wildlife by preventing collisions on the road. When placed in areas of known wildlife movement, crossing structures

can reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by up to 97 percent. By investing in solutions to wildlife-vehicle collisions through the surface transportation bill, we can ensure land managers and transportation agencies across the country are able to proactively address this problem.

Wildlife crossing provisions were included in S. 2302, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act, which passed unanimously out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works can be included in our bill and serve as a baseline for the House to build on.

Those important measures include, among others:

- A competitive Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program to provide competitive grants to states, tribes, local governments for wildlife infrastructure projects that reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity. We recommend increasing the level of funding for this important program.
- Updated language in existing funding streams, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects, to ensure wildlife crossing projects are recognized as eligible for funding.

From California to Wyoming to Florida, states across the country have been working to address wildlife-vehicle collisions on their roads and highways. While land managers and transportation agencies have made significant progress, there is more work to be done and Congress can provide the necessary tools.

We look forward to working with you on addressing wildlife-vehicle collisions in the House surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

/s/ Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/ Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/ Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

/s/ Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/ Filemón Vela  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/ John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

/s/ Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

/s/ Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress