



## National Wildlife Federation

Northern Rockies, Prairies, and Pacific Regional Center  
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Roger Millar  
Secretary of Transportation  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

August 24, 2018

Dear Mr. Millar,

I write on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation to voice support for the proposed Highway 97 Underpass.

The National Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 and represents over 6 million members and supporters, including more than 126,000 Washington state residents.

According to the Washington Department of Transportation, data collected over the last 22 years indicates that the 12 mile stretch of highway between Riverside and Tonasket has over 350 vehicle-deer collisions each year. These come at a societal cost of over \$6,000 per accident, costing close to 2 million dollars per year in vehicle repairs, removal of carcasses by WSDOT, state patrol response, insurance costs, medical bills, and the lost value of the deer for recreational viewing and or hunting. Fortunately, no one has yet been killed in an accident from one of these collisions.

We recognize that the entire safe-passage project of 12 miles will need to be completed in phases, with the first phase of about 3.5 miles to include three underpasses' along with all necessary fencing, gates, or side road cattleguards to assure wildlife will be routed to and use the underpasses.

To ensure safe passage of both people and wildlife, the National Wildlife Federation supports the installation of the first phase of this safe-passage project and the eventual completion of the full installation along the entire 12 miles of highway.

Sincerely,

Tom France  
Regional Director,  
Rocky Mountains, Prairies and Pacific Region