



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

February 8, 2019

Roger Millar
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

Dear Mr. Millar:

I wish to express Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) support of the effort to fund and construct wildlife underpasses on State Highway 97 in Okanogan County. WDFW has a significant amount of data on deer migration and their high use of that area, as well as recognition of corresponding vehicle versus deer collisions that are a frequent occurrence along that route. Based on the success of other such efforts in the United States and in neighboring Canada we believe that this effort would not only benefit deer, but also several other wildlife species. It would reduce the risk to passing motorists in the area, reducing injuries and property damage, a principle public value of importance.

If we can be of any further assistance in advancing this project, I or my staff stand ready to provide technical or other assistance to bring about this needed alteration to the highway.

If you have any questions, please contact our North Central Regional Director Jim Brown at (509) 754-4624. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Susewind".

Kelly Susewind
Director

cc: Jim Brown, WDFW North Central Region Director
David Bierschbach, WSDOT North Central Region Administrator