

Chair Witt and Committee Members:

I am writing to ask you to support HB 2844 which will remove beaver from predatory animal status in Oregon and allow the Department of Fish & Wildlife to manage this important species throughout our state.

This Bill will help maintain and increase beaver populations in those places where they can do the most good for our wildlife, our streams, our fish, our water security, our climate, and Oregon's general ecological health. This will benefit all segments of our society including agriculture, recreation, wildfire resistance and amelioration of the effects of climate change by increasing the capacity for carbon capture and storage.

All the current tools of beaver management, including lethal removal, will remain available while encouraging use of nonlethal techniques that are increasingly demonstrated to be effective in managing beaver-caused damage to private property, crops and infrastructure.

Please advance HB 2844. It will have a significant positive effect on our state.

Thank you,

Wally Sykes
Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Joseph, OR