

I strongly support this legislation because Beavers are an integral part of the ecosystem, and have been wrongly targeted as a nuisance species for hundreds of years. Removing the predatory animal status for Beavers will allow wildlife experts the ability to manage the population for health and prosperity, and allow the state to again see the benefit of their presence on the landscape. Active and healthy Beaver populations have proven to increase wildfire resilience, contribute to more efficient stormwater storage, support the capture and store of carbon from the atmosphere, and increase habitat for imperiled salmonoid species. We should be doing everything in our power to protect them, and HB2844 is a strong first step.