

Dear Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,
Chair Witt and Members,

Thank you very much for your service to Oregon. Please support HB 2844. This bill has many benefits for Oregon. For me, I advocate for wildlife and the benefits of maintaining habitats for all wildlife. For beavers, their gift to our state is their natural wildfire prevention through their natural firebreaks, their contribution to sustaining natural habitats for wild birds and water sources for all wildlife. But more than that, these animals should be protected, and if management is needed, it should be through our ODFW. Listing them as "predators" has severe consequences that are not in Oregon's best interests.

I read about the trapping guidelines for predators, and find that allowing traps to be set, and then not checked again for lengthy time periods, is simply cruel. Trapping itself is cruel. Beaver trapping on private land should not be allowed year-round without state oversight. Please support non-lethal co-existence with wildlife, with beavers. We are, after all, the "Beaver State". Let's support these animals and learn to live with them, and we will then continue to receive the gifts of their existence that benefit our state and planet.

Thank you.
Jane Bicquette
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