

Dear House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Members,

I write to urge you to support the passage of HB 2844, which will remove beavers from their current predatory animal status. Beaver are an important connection in our local ecosystem, and they are even a romanticized animal that graces the names of towns, roads, and even university mascots. Oregon and the beaver are linked in so many ways, both real and purely poetic.

This bill, if passed, still permits landowners to remove beaver from their property, including lethal means if and when necessary. The does encourage beaver in our overall ecosystem landscape, and also shifts the management of the beaver population to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is in line with most other Oregon wildlife control plans.

Please support HB 2844 this session: it just makes sense for our state at this time.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

-- Brian Belet