

Dear Committee Members:

RE: HB 2844 Beaver Predatory Bill

This bill encourages Beaver presence on the landscape to create an atmosphere where Oregon sees more benefits from increased, and more widely-distributed Beaver populations. Beaverton was named for the Beaver. There maybe 2 or 3 Beaver colony's remaining in the area, but development is now threatening that remaining habitat.

This bill would remove the predatory animal status on the Beaver, which would allow Oregon's wildlife experts, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to manage Beaver everywhere in Oregon as it does for the vast majority of wildlife in Oregon, including deer, elk, black bear, wolves, raccoons, and fish.

It would allow Beavers to populate areas they have been driven out of by white settlers starting a 100+ years ago. And the bill would prohibit the indiscriminate, and inhumane trapping of the Beaver that currently occurs. The bill encourages the use of non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent Beaver-related property and infrastructure damage caused by the very few Beavers remaining in their habitat.

The bill returns wildlife management to Oregon's wildlife experts at ODFW, without precluding the Oregon Department of Agriculture from working with landowners to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Jan Asher