

March 17, 2021

Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I support House Bill 2844, removing the current predatory categorization of beavers. As a member of the general public I must say that in our state, The Beaver State for goodness sake, designating beavers as predators whether on private land or anywhere else is patently absurd. Check the dictionary. Beavers in no way fit the definition of predators. I don't know when this law was enacted but it is outdated and needs to be revised in line with current scientific evidence concerning the many beneficial ways beavers affect the environment. Obviously, beavers can be a problem and create damage but they should be managed like other wildlife by the ODFW. This bill does not preclude the ODA from assisting property owners in protecting their investments. It will, however, eliminate the wholesale slaughter of beavers on private land that is currently allowed. Beavers are not predators and should not be classified as rodents either (an obvious loophole that would allow their extermination to continue). Please recommend this bill to the House floor.

Go Beavs!

Mary Hughes