

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to support the passage of HB 2844. This is a common sense bill. There is no reason for beaver to be designated as a predator species in Oregon. The current designation has led to much confusion in the hunting regulations where people are under the impression that if they hold a grazing lease that they are authorized to shoot or kill beavers whenever they want. Predatory status ties ODFW's hands and also is preventing valuable information to be collected that would help guide and inform better management of beavers in Oregon. Because of the hundreds of millions of dollars of ecological benefits we could gain from beavers as well as public safety benefits in relation to fires and the help beavers can provide in fighting the impacts of the continuing droughts plaguing eastern Oregon farmers, ranchers and wildlife, we need to do everything we can to help beavers help us. HB 2844 is just common sense legislation. People will still be able to protect infrastructure and farm fields and homes. There is simply no reason at all to oppose this bill other than just pure obstinance and fear mongering.

Thank you,

Jefferson Jacobs