

My name is Brenda Frketich and I own a diversified and sustainable farm in St. Paul. I am asking you to oppose HB 2844. Beaver management is critical to maintaining my farm infrastructure, protecting my crops such as hazelnuts, preventing flooding, and maintaining roads.

My opposition to higher and over burdensome regulation surrounding these rodents is three fold; the damage that they cause, the fact that they are already regulated, and the fact that there is an abundant population.

The damage that is caused by beavers is very extensive on our farm. We grow poplar trees and hazelnut trees on our farmland. Both of which receive extensive damage when beavers move into the area. They take entire trees of any size to make their dams. This is crop that I am losing every year. Not only do they destroy actual crop, they also in turn destroy cropland. The dams that are built create an enormous amount of flooding in a very short time. This takes away working farm land. If there happens to be a roadway or culvert through this area, the flooding knows no bounds and it is also destroyed or made impassible.

I rely heavily on my ability to trap and take beaver that are causing damage on our farm and land. They are already regulated by the simple fact that I am not legally allowed to take a beaver unless it is causing damage. The control measures that I take as a landowner are not for sport, hunting or recreation. They are purely to protect my land from the damage that these rodents do. Furthermore to ask that I be required to get a permit for each individual beaver that comes and causes damage only opens the door for even more regulation down the road. When the beavers show up, I need to take care of them as quickly and efficiently as possible before more and more damage is done. Beavers work fast, (busy beaver ring a bell) and our timeliness to get the trapping accomplished is very crucial.

There is an abundant population of beavers in Oregon, and there is no science at all to show anything different. Especially in Marion County where I farm, the population is nothing but healthy and thriving. Which is why our ability to control the population in problem areas is a huge priority for us. If we allow a family of beavers to move in permanently, we are looking at years of frustration and damage ahead of us.

I am urging a no vote on HB 2844. As a farmer and landowner I need to be able to control rodents (and beavers are scientifically a rodent) when they are doing extensive damage to my farm. I need to be able to control them in a timely manner and will do so within the current regulations in Oregon. Also there is no shortage of this species here, and no need for any protections. Thank you for your time on this important issue.