



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037  
P 202-452-1100  
F 202-778-6132  
humanesociety.org

March 17, 2021

Chairman Brad Witt  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

***Re: Support of HB 2728***

Susan Atherton  
*Co-Chair*

Thomas J. Sabatino, Jr.  
*Co-Chair*

Kitty Block  
*President and  
Chief Executive Officer*

William H. Hall  
*Treasurer and  
Chief Financial Officer*

Katherine L. Karl  
*General Counsel and  
Chief Legal Officer*

Erin Frackleton  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Nicole Paquette  
*Chief Programs  
and Policy Officer*

Johanie V. Parra  
*Secretary*

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I am writing to offer our strong support for House Bill 2844 (HB 2844) that would remove the “predatory animal” and “rodent” classification for beaver and put in place a set of rules that will improve the welfare impacts on beaver as well as improve outcomes for people and communities where conflicts are experienced.

The science and understanding of beavers as ecosystem engineers has just begun to expand into practical application and we have only just begun to examine and recognize the potential beneficial role that they can play in watersheds and in our communities in general.

Few, if any, wildlife species have such a profound influence on landscape form as well as through the processes they set in motion that create and support entire biotic communities. When protections are afforded to beaver, they in turn directly increase and enhance wetlands and biological diversity. With proper management and stewardship, beaver wetlands represent sustainable environmental resources for many rare and sensitive plants and animals and can be formative in restoring riparian corridors and building resilient ecological systems which help to mitigate against the effects of land-use changes, increased impervious surfaces, and the effects of climate change.

Increased emphasis on non-lethal management of beaver can also be beneficial even in urbanized environments, promoting improved water quality, aquatic habitat, and floodplain habitat as well as producing unique opportunities for environmental education, recreation and enjoyment.

This legislation is an important step in regard to the removal of the classification of a predatory animal and for putting a regulatory process in place for removing beaver that may be in conflict with landowners. We hope that this can also be a step forward in raising awareness of the importance of beaver in our communities as well as implementing lasting, humane, and cost-effective methods of living with beaver and the wetlands that they create.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson  
Oregon Senior State Director  
[kpeterson@humanesociety.org](mailto:kpeterson@humanesociety.org)  
503/869-0422

**DIRECTORS**

Susan Atherton  
Georgina Bloomberg  
J. Elizabeth Bradham  
Neil B. Fang, Esq., CPA  
Caren M. Fleit  
Robert A. Greenspon  
Brad Jakeman  
Cathy Kangas  
Sylvia T. Kaser, Esq  
Adi Kumar  
Charles A. Laue  
Kathleen M. Linehan, Esq.  
C. Thomas McMillen  
David S. Niekerk  
Sharon Lee Patrick  
Marsha R. Perelman  
Thomas J. Sabatino, Jr.  
Steven G. White