

Hello Chairman and Committee members,

I oppose to this redefining of ORS 610 predatory animals. In my career at Oregon Dept of Agriculture for 31 years, this statute was under my administration for most of it. I strongly feel by removing Beavers from this statute you will severely handicap landowners who discover and need to remedy what they see as a problem after critical assessment. In most cases, the discovery of a beaver on property is not a problem and in no immediate need to correct, but after a certain threshold, action is needed to stop damage. "Damage" is in the eye of the beholder, not to be determined by agency personnel, sometimes with no experience, and usually with no "skin" in the game so to speak. The decision by landowners to address damage is one thing, them having the skills to do so is quite another. Experienced experts are the best option and they are not that common to find. When you do find somebody, action needs to happen sooner than later to stop the "damage", either by non lethal measures and in extreme cases, lethal removal. It would at the very least slow the ability to address damage, if not remove that from the table if ODFW staff decide it is not necessary and don't approve the actions needed. Ive always thought this tool was rarely used, but it needs to stay in ORS as its extremely valuable when needed. Please do not mess with ORS 610, it has worked well for many decades and should remain intact.
Respectfully