

I am writing in support of HB 2844. Beavers are an important part of Oregon's ecological health and provide many positive benefits including increased wildfire resilience through natural firebreaks and post-fire habitat, increased water security through wetlands and ponds storing surface and groundwater, carbon capture and storage, improved drinking water quality and stream temperatures, and rearing habitat for multiple imperiled salmonid species. I think this bill does a good job of encouraging beaver presence on the landscape in hopes of more widely-distributed beaver populations in Oregon, without removing all options for landowners who need to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure. Please pass this important bill! There is a long list of conservation organizations in support of this bill, and it is an important piece in the puzzle of climate change adaptation and mitigation.