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Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 18, 2021

Submitted electronically to: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Testimony/HAGNR>

RE: HB 2844

On behalf of Oregon Wild's nearly 20,000 members and supporters, we submit this testimony in support of HB 2844. By passing HB 2844 and removing beavers' predatory status on private land, the state can ensure that the agency responsible for managing and recovering all of Oregon's fish and wildlife, ODFW, can effectively do so.

As climate change and its impact on wildlife and water worsens, loss of biodiversity intensifies, and habitat degradation expands, it's critical that our natural resources agencies are equipped and prepared to protect essential habitat and the species that rely on them. Beavers are an important tool to help combat some of the worst effects of these environmental crises.

Known as ecosystem engineers, beavers provide a number of environmental services such as creating and restoring habitat like wetlands, capturing excess sediment, recharging groundwater, slowing storm water flow and much more.

Beaver ponds create important habitat for many other species, including juvenile Coho salmon. For example, in the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan, it specifically notes the importance of allowing for the restoration of beavers and beaver dams as a key component to creating and supporting critical Coho habitat.

There are many more examples like these, but one thing is certain: as we look for solutions to solve the mounting environmental challenges of our time such as intensified drought, wildfire, deterioration of quality fish habitat, and biodiversity loss, it's essential to include the restoration of beavers as a primary (and natural) fix. Passing HB 2844 is an important step in doing so.

Additionally, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently initiated a beaver working group (which is expected to begin meeting soon) to address management and recovery efforts across the state. Several stakeholders will be coming together to develop a plan, assess challenges, and recommend solutions. Giving ODFW and its Commission authority over beaver on private land will enable this working group to develop a more comprehensive statewide plan.

It is critical that ODFW is allowed to serve as the managing agency, so that it can better track, monitor, and analyze beaver presence across all of Oregon and determine where recovery efforts are needed.

Thank you and I urge your support of HB 2844.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danielle Moser".

Danielle Moser
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Oregon Wild