



My name is Kyle Williams and I serve as the Director of Forest Protection for the Oregon Forest and Industries Council. OFIC is a trade association representing Timber landowners and Oregon' forest products manufacturers from all over the state. Our members provide for themselves, their families and nearly 60,000 other households via direct employment from our lands.

We are writing today to OPPOSE HB 2844

Our members rely on the ability to privately trap beavers when their activity causes irreparable damage or risks to our infrastructure.

Presently, beavers are correctly classified as a "rodent" and managed under ORS 610.002 as a predator on private lands. Under current law, they can be taken by a private landowner or their agent on their private lands without the need for state authorization. They can be taken on public lands with a furbearer license and adherence to all pertinent regulations. HB 2844 would change that management structure, moving management authority to ODFW and away from ODA where all other predatory animal rules are currently administered. The bill would require a permit be issued for all take of beaver, require questionable relocation and non-lethal deterrence measures, and pile on onerous reporting timelines.

Our membership strongly opposes this approach because:

- **It is not grounded in science.** Beavers are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection. Additionally, the bill proposes to remove the classification of beavers as a rodent. Beavers are taxonomically classified as rodents and should be correctly identified in statute.
- **It does not allow for agility in management.** HB 2844 would remove the ability of landowners to address damage on their property without first getting a permit from ODFW and completing non-lethal deterrence as outlined in the bill, some of which will actually harm beaver populations. There is no ability to expedite this process if there is a beaver whose dam is causing jeopardy to property or damaging crops. Our landowners need to maintain the ability to manage predatory species as needed to protect their operations – the state should not eliminate tools, especially with no sound scientific basis to do so.
- **It upends ODFW's existing workgroup process.** After a petition regarding trapping on federal lands was voted down by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, ODFW created a workgroup that is going to address a myriad of issues related to beaver management. The legislature should not disrupt that process.

Our state's wildlife management decisions must be grounded in science, give landowners, local governments, and land managers the tools they need to address problems as they arise, and respect the current roles and responsibilities of agencies. HB 2844 misses the mark across the board. **We urge you to OPPOSE HB 2844.**