

3/18/21

Chair Witt & members of the House Agriculture Committee:

We strongly oppose HB 2844, that would severely impact our ability to manage beaver populations. Anyone supporting this bill has clearly never seen the detrimental impacts beavers can cause to waterways and surrounding lands, particularly in farm areas. Significant riparian damage and erosion occurs when culverts are plugged, tile drainage systems are backed up and inoperable, and water is forced to find alternative routes to continue downstream.

It simply is not practical to require the rigorous permitting system proposed in this bill. The limited private trappers we have been able to find to work with do not have the time for this additional hoop to jump through.

Finally, there is no concerns with beaver numbers in our state, to prompt this additional level of protection.

Please do not further tie the hands of rural landowners in their ability to manage their properties, and vote against this bill.

Kathy Hadley

Dean Freeborn

Rickreall, Oregon