



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 2844  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

March 19, 2021

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Hudson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 2844, including with the -2 amendments, because we believe it would lead to more humane treatment of beavers in Oregon and benefits for fish and other wildlife.

HB 2844 would remove beavers from the "predatory" animal classification in Oregon law, which would allow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to regulate the killing of beavers on private land, as it already does on public land. This would allow the Department to gather more information on beavers and to better protect them. The Department should be able to do that because beavers are increasingly recognized as important contributors to ecosystem health. The dams they build provide numerous benefits, such as helping to create functioning floodplains, which create healthy riparian areas and "store" water for slow release downstream later in the year when flows might otherwise be too low for fish and wildlife.

Giving the Department more control over beaver management also makes sense for the beavers themselves. It will allow increased emphasis on non-lethal measures to manage beaver conflicts with private land activities such as irrigation (the main reason beavers are killed on private land), which is a more humane approach from an animal welfare perspective.

Thank you for considering our comments.

*Brian Posewitz*

Brian Posewitz  
Director