

Dear Representatives,

I am a farmer; I would like to tell you why beaver management is critical to maintaining my farm infrastructure, preventing flooding, maintaining clean water ways, keeping my crop protected and maintaining roads. We have even had beavers come eat down our blueberry plants to the ground, which cost of thousands of dollars in crop loss and replacement. Every year we have to clean up spill ways and pump suction because the beavers bring in lots of tree branches and other wood into these areas.

Beavers and/or nutria create a lot the same problems on our farms. The traps we use kill the animal quickly with minimal suffering. I don't like animals to suffer. We have learned over the years that we are sometimes wrong on what animal is causing the problem.

Most of the time nutria is assumed pest for our farms and we have found that when trapping it's actually a beaver not a nutria.

Beavers can cause extensive riparian damage, their dams can block culverts, wash out critical roads, flood farm fields, homes, and parks, and alter water systems. I rely on the ability to privately trap beavers to avoid the significant damage that beavers can cause to my operation. I do not trap beavers for sport - I only take them when they are causing damage to my property or impacting my farm.

Beavers are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection. Additionally, this bill proposes to remove the classification of beavers as a rodent. Beavers are taxonomically classified as rodents and should be correctly identified in statute.

As a landowner, I need to address a beaver issue that is jeopardizing my property immediately. I cannot afford to be required to get a permit from ODFW (which I know environmental groups would advocate should eventually not be issued). Further, the available non-lethal deterrence doesn't work well in my experience, and relocating beavers can actually transfer disease. Beaver in not an easy animal to trap, in my experience it takes time, skill and the ability to outsmart the rodent.

I need to maintain the ability to manage predatory species as needed to protect my farm - the state should not eliminate tools, especially with no sound scientific basis to do so. I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2844.

Thank you,

Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp