

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2844 and its correction of the absurd classification of beaver as "predatory animals."

I am a proud Oregonian and spend a goodly number of weekends every year volunteering my time on riparian restoration projects, including in Pine Creek Conservation Area, Cottonwood Canyon State Park, and on the South Fork Crooked River. Even as a layman, when one is doing the work, it is incredibly obvious that our beloved streams and creeks evolved alongside beaver; one of the most magical experiences of my life was watching Hay Creek re-braid itself through fossil channels as I helped build a beaver dam analogue. Beavers are a critical keystone species in our beautiful state, and protecting beaver will help mitigate climate change effects, help build wildfire resiliency, help mitigate droughts, and help restore our rivers back to their beautiful natural state.

Please consider moving HB 2844 along help advance this important bill so that beaver can continue doing their vital work for Oregon's rural lands.

Alex Parise