

Please Oppose HB 3464

March 21, 2023

Chair Marsh and members of the House Committee on Climate & Energy & Environment.

I am Bruce Chapin and I farm hazelnut orchards north of Salem. I am strongly opposed to additional restrictions on controlling beavers on private orchards. I would like to share with you my experience with beavers. In February of 2017. I had a four year old hazelnut orchard with a drainage ditch through the orchard which drained into a wooded area on the neighbor's property. There had been a colony of beavers living in the neighbor's wooded area along the ditch for several years and had caused very little problem, but in 2017 the beavers decided they really liked to eat young filbert trees. I contacted the government trapper who set traps and caught several beavers. Thinking he was done the trapper picked up his traps and left, but the trees continued to be attacked. With the use of a shot gun most every evening was spent trying to protect the orchard. This went on for about a month and a half. During this time period eight beavers and about hundred trees were destroyed. Below are five pictures showing some of the massive amount of damage that was done.

Being a farmer I have spent much of my life outside and truly love nature. I get great enjoyment from watching the wildlife on our property but please do not take away our right to protect our orchards from beavers when we need to!

Respectively

Bruce









