



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 3464  
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

March 21, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, 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 3464.

HB 3464 would remove beavers from the "predatory" animal classification in Oregon law and give the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife more control over how beavers are managed on private land. That would allow the Department to gather more information on beavers and to potentially increase their numbers and the number of dams they build, while simultaneously managing conflict between beavers and private landowners.

Beaver dams help to create functioning floodplains that improve riparian vegetation and "store" water for slow release downstream later in the year when flows might otherwise be much lower. That benefits several species of fish and wildlife and helps make Oregon more resilient to increasing drought and wildfire brought on by climate change.

Giving the Department more control over beaver management would also be good for the beavers themselves. It would allow increased emphasis on non-lethal measures to manage beaver conflicts with private land activities, which is a more humane approach from an animal welfare perspective.

Thank you for considering our comments.

*Brian Posewitz*

Brian Posewitz  
Director