

Submitter: Linda Pace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Good afternoon, Chair Marsh, vice-chair Levy, and members of the House Committee, The testimony given today was very interesting and informative. One take-away that made me sad is the seeming reluctance of differing interests to put aside special interests to work together on climate change--what wakes me up at 3:00 AM! My experience with beavers in restoring streams and bringing back native plants and providing grazing for cattle comes from Utah where a couple bought a ranch at 7000 feet with a creek so damaged by cattle hooves that the creek has disappeared. Planting willow and cottonwood brought the beavers; the beavers brought back the creek and all that goes with a healthy, year round stream. My husband and I bought 20 acres of forest and natural meadows in Selma, Oregon. Because we have a small older home in Grants Pass and because water is a critical issue in the Illinois Valley, we steward the forest land and use it for recreation and camping, taking drinking water from our well in Grants Pass with us. Many of our older friends in the Illinois Valley are doing the same thing we are, that is, conserving trees and water for future generations. Anderson Creek, tributary to Deer Creek and the Illinois River, is a fish stream and each January Steelhead come to our section to spawn. Some of the fingerlings/fry don't make it back to Deer Creek because Anderson Creek stops flowing in late July/ early August. According to a neighbor who has been there over 20 years, this wasn't always true. We would love to see beavers move in. We don't grow crops so we are not concerned about damage even if they flood some acreage. I support passage because it's a step forward to recognition of our place in the natural world which is living in connection with all natural processes. From the testimony of Jakob Shockly (forgive my spelling, please), it appears that there are reasonable steps that landowners can take when use of land is impaired by beavers. As far as I know, beavers can't flood an irrigation ditch in a few hours--he talked about burrowing into the banks of the ditches, that is clearly some other rodent. Also I liked the suggestion to use the language "rodents, not to include beavers" rather than the current language which seems to imply they aren't rodents. We're all in this together--we are facing devastating drought, thermal anomalies like heat domes, and atmospheric rivers. The preamble to this bill is beautifully written--thank you for your efforts and may we learn to live in a more-than-human world.