

Submitter: Paul Engelmeyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

I was hoping to give testimony directly but here it is - any questions do not hesitate to call - thank you

From: Paul Engelmeyer

Land Manager for Wetlands Conservancy and Portland Audubon

I appreciate this opportunity to give testimony concerning HB3464. We are in full support of this policy change concerning beavers in Oregon. I have been working with the MidCoast Watersheds Council for over 25 years as well. Our focus has been to work with partners to improve habitat conditions and water quality for salmon recovery. Both NOAA and ODFW's coho recovery plans identify the highest priorities to recovery is to improve stream complexity and water quality. I am sure you have heard this before this keynote species the beaver, our state species works as a true partner to improve water quality, stream complexity and water quantity for free. Changing the designation makes sense.

My experience working within my coastal community there is significant support of this policy change and many are quite surprised with the fact that we are still allowing trapping of our state animal. Our efforts in our coastal landscape are mirrored throughout Oregon - there are over 60 groups working to improve water quality and recover salmon. Beavers are part of the solution to improving habitat conditions for many species.

Any questions do not hesitate to give me a call. 541-547-4227