

Submitter: Amy Hunter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB830

I am writing in opposition to HB830. While recognizing the importance of beavers in our state's ecosystems is critical (and long overdue), promoting their relocation is irresponsible, ineffective and inhumane:

1. Beaver relocation isn't a win-win; it's a lose-lose-lose.

- A majority of relocated beavers do not survive in their new habitat due to the trauma of the relocation, the separation of family units, lack of food sources at the relocation sites, predation and more. It's an inhumane "solution."
- Relocation usually does not help a target restoration or release site, due to the relocated beavers not surviving or leaving the area.
- The habitat from which beaver are removed loses the benefits that they bring, such as water sequestration and increased biodiversity.

2. Relocation often doesn't solve a "problem beaver" situation.

- If the conditions are ideal enough at a location for a beaver to settle, start tree-felling, den-building, damming and family-building, beavers will continue to do so – time after time.
- Live-trapping an existing beaver or family for relocation is often only a short-term answer for the land steward.

3. There are better long-term beaver coexistence solutions that are cost-effective, humane and benefit the environment.

- Inexpensive mitigation solutions like flow devices, culvert protectors or tree fencing can prevent blocked water from flooding and trees from being felled. The materials are easy to source and install and allow the beavers to stay in place and provide ecosystem benefits.

Thank you for taking a deeper look at what is both in the best interest of this vital keystone species and a more effective solution.

Amy Hunter