



Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon

Sub: Testimony in support of HB 3464

**Co-Chair Senator Michael Dembrow**

**Co-Chair Representative Khanh Pham**

Good afternoon, Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy, and Levy and Committee members

My name is Rick Cook, current “steward” of our family property in the Stafford area next to the Urban Growth Boundary of Lake Oswego.

I want to thank you for your work and for providing this opportunity to bring to your attention our relationship with a beaver habitat on Pecan Creek which has a small section that runs through our farm. Our Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Shipley-Cook Farmstead (barn built in 1860 –farmhouse in 1862). Designated as a Century Farm, this June we will be celebrating 123 years of stewardship by the JP and Susie Cook family. Other highlights, the farm has a State of Oregon and Clackamas County Designated Heritage Tree Grove and also a stop on the Hazelia Agri-Cultural Heritage Trail that highlights our areas rich agriculture history.

In 1996, we developed vineyard, and have had good yields; the farm is thought of as a treasured historical, visual and agricultural asset to the community. In Sept. 2021 we noticed that we had a few visitors to Pecan Creek that had never been documented in our 123 years of stewardship. Then, about a year into their good work of improving Pecan Creek, we noticed they decided to dine on some “grapes vines”, losing a dozen or so vines before we were able to contact Jakob Shockey of The Beaver Coalition and finalize a “Cooperative Agreement” Plan. Elements of the agreement provide for mutually shared supervision, management and maintenance in a timely manner. The project must allow at least a minimum of one year, while allowing access to the property to maintain, secure, service, monitor, inspect and repair equipment as needed.

The Beaver Coalition installed solar powered electrical fencing along the portion next to the creek, and “ENDED” the loss of vines. It has been an overwhelming success, and we are very grateful for the fine work and partnership with the Beaver Coalition.

As a family farm, our goal is to preserve what we have left of the original farmstead for future generations. Our Family Motto, “Six Generation – One Legacy”, is something we hold near and dear to our hearts.

We are hoping to help others understand that there are ways to have beavers actually flourish, co-exist and even enhance agricultural production. Beavers are “Natures Engineers” when it comes to watersheds. The public, along with beavers can all benefit from legislation that will embrace their rightful place in our ecosystems.

We have attached to our submitted written testimony a 2-minute video produced by Clackamas County about the Shipley-Cook farmstead and numerous photos and letters of support of our current friendly neighbors working to improve Pecan Creek. Once again, we highly recommend The Beaver Coalition to help find positive outcomes to challenges of living within a Beaver Habitat.

Thank you for your time, care and willingness to put forward and pass HB 3464.

Sincerely,

Rick Cook for  
JP and Susie Family Farm

Link to Shipley/Cook Farmstead Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyHNZkGk9b4>

Photo's below- maybe take a moment to load.





