



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 3464
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

April 25, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, 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 as amended.

HB 3464 would remove beavers from the "predatory" animal classification in Oregon law and give the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) more control over how beavers are managed on private land. That would allow the ODFW 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.

Removing beavers from the "predatory" classification would also help promote more humane treatment of the beavers themselves. For example, it would generally require more interaction between landowners and ODFW regarding problems caused by beavers, which would provide more opportunity to promote non-lethal measures to address the problems.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director