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May 8, 2023

Senate Committee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Testimony in Support of HB 3564

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. We write to support HB 3464, which would remove the predatory status assigned to beavers.

A key focus of our organization is ensuring our watershed is climate resilient and, therefore, able to recover from climate-related disturbances. As nature's engineers, beavers provide an essential service of creating wetland habitat that mitigates the impacts of climate change. In addition to acting as natural pollutant filters, wetlands provide much needed flood and drought control, carbon sequestration, and natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

Beavers' "predatory" designation allows unlimited capture and kill of beavers with no oversight from ODFW. By eliminating beavers' predatory status, it would allow ODFW to monitor beaver populations and fill essential data gaps needed for proper management. The bill does not prohibit private landowners' ability to remove beavers from their property, but rather creates an efficient system for ODFW to regulate beaver removal. It is time for Oregon to fulfill its namesake as "the Beaver State" and support our allies in nature.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Frankeny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Frankeny".

Victoria Frankeny [she/her]
Riverkeeper & Staff Attorney
Tualatin Riverkeepers
victoria@tualatinriverkeepers.org