

Submitter: Ashley Chesser
On Behalf Of: Wild Farm Alliance
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB4014

Dear Committee Members,

Wild Farm Alliance submits these comments from our Eugene, Oregon office in support of HB 4014 to encourage land owner coexistence with beavers. While some land owners are appreciative of beavers' presence, others are frustrated by their modifications to the landscape. The good news is that beaver activity can be managed with economical, long-term strategies that prevent property damage, avoid the need to kill beavers and retain the many benefits that beavers bring.

Please see the submitted report, "Connecting with Wild Neighbors: Beavers" for information about how land owners can coexist successfully with beavers. It is important to support land owners in their coexistence endeavors since beavers and their dams provide many benefits to Oregon, including:

- Slowing and redirecting flood waters across adjacent lowlands. This encourages riparian vegetation, which also works to accumulate new soils and hold existing soils in place, reversing the effects of channel erosion.
- Dependable water for cities, towns, farms, and ranches and improved stream flows during drought.
- Natural water filtration systems that trap sediment and improve water quality.
- Better recharge of groundwater due to slower, expanded water flow.
- More abundant, healthy salmon. Young salmon thrive in beaver ponds, due to protection from predators and increased food sources.
- Increased natural firebreaks and refuges for wildlife during wildfires.
- Expanded wetland habitat that draws down atmospheric carbon.

Thank you for your time and we urge you to vote yes on HB4014.

Sincerely,

Ashley Chesser
Communications Director
Wild Farm Alliance