



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 4014  
House Committee on

February 5, 2024

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization working to promote the humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 4014.

HB 4014 would create and fund a program of grants to entities working with landowners to “mitigate the effects of beavers” on private land. The list of potential “projects” includes tree protection tools, flood prevention devices, and culvert protection systems, showing an intent to “mitigate” the effects of beavers in nonlethal ways, if possible, so that the beavers themselves can go on living on the land.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 4014 because it would likely lead to more humane treatment of beavers (allowing them to co-exist with private landowners instead of being killed).

Humane Voters Oregon also supports the bill because it would likely result in more beavers living in Oregon, which would likely result in more beaver dams being built in Oregon. That would be a good thing because scientific studies increasingly show that beaver dams help to create healthy watersheds by creating beaver ponds and floodplains with healthy streamside vegetation that shade streams and store water for slow release downstream later in the year. These things improve water quality and stream flow and make Oregon more resilient to increasing drought and wildfire brought on by climate change, all of which benefits people and animals alike.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz  
Director