



11675 SW Hazelbrook Road | Tualatin, OR | 97062 | (503) 218 2580 | tualatinriverkeepers.org | info@tualatinriverkeepers.org

January 30, 2025

RE: Comments in support of HB 3143 – Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund.

Co Chairs Rep Helm and Rep Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald and Members of the Committee,

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) supports the Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund HB 3143) which will provide funding for private landowners that supports beaver coexistence strategies. HB 3143 will be established within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) through the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund (OCRF), and award block grant funds to eligible applicants¹ to implement beaver mitigation projects² on private land.

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. A significant focus of our organization is to ensure climate resiliency in our watershed. Wetlands are one of the most effective ways to mitigate climate change and pollution impacts, providing flood and drought control, carbon sinks, and natural habitats for fish and wildlife. Beavers play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, in part by creating wetlands through damming channels and slowing water flows.

In 2023, the Oregon legislature passed HB 3464, which removed beavers from Oregon state’s list of predatory animals.³ This bill shifted management of private lands from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to ODFW, and allowed ODFW to promote the use of non-lethal tools of beaver management and removal. HB 3143 will provide funding, up to \$50K, to eligible applicants to promote the non lethal management of beavers on private land, the impetus for passing HB 3464. This funding provides critical financial support for non-lethal tools and education to promote coexistence strategies for private landowners. In essence, HB 3143, is

¹ Including but not limited to: Watershed Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and non profit organizations. Fact Sheet, *Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund - HB 3143*.

² Grant funds may be used for non-lethal mitigation tools, including but not limited to: tree protection tools, flood prevention devices, culvert and infrastructure protection systems, crop protection strategies, and landowner education/outreach. *Id.*

³ *Commission adopts rules to implement “Beaver Bill”*, ODFW, Jun. 14, 2024, https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2024/06_Jun/061424c.asp#:~:text=CHILOQUIN%2C%20Ore..does%20occur%20and%20reasons%20why.



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a continuation of the efforts prompted and implemented by HB 3464 to avoid lethal taking of beavers to mitigate beaver impacts on private land.

Beavers are crucial to help ecosystems flourish. Beaver habitats help recharging groundwater, enhancing fire resiliency, improve water quality, support healthy salmon habitat, and provide climate refugia for other species.⁴ Funding that promotes non lethal mitigation strategies for beaver management on private land is vital to maintain coexistence between landowners and beavers, accordingly TRK emphatically supports HB 3143.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eve Goldman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eve Goldman (she/her)
Staff Attorney & Riverkeeper
Tualatin Riverkeepers
eve@tualatinriverkeepers.org

⁴ *Id.*