



PO Box 193
Jacksonville, OR 97530

January 31, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

RE: Support for House Bill 3143

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

If we want to increase water security and habitat resiliency, there is no more efficient use of funds than the proposed House Bill 3143.

Consider these points:

- **Beavers build this resiliency for free.** Science has proven what common sense (and those who are still on the land) tell us— beavers reduce the severity of floods, droughts, and wildfires while increasing water quality, water quantity, carbon sequestration, and habitat for fish and wildlife. They solve these problems better than humans, and beavers have stewarded these waterways for millions of years.
- **Beavers make habitat, even out of parking-lots.** Humans and beavers like flat land near waterways, and their landscaping ideas often clash with ours. Thousands of beavers are killed every year in the Oregon because of conflicts around tree damage and plugged culverts.
- **We can outsmart rodents.** Coexistence tools like pond levelers and culvert protection systems, crop protection with electric fences, or simple caging around trees effectively solve the problems beavers can cause for human infrastructure, crops, or homes.
- **Fantastic return on investment.** The most complicated of these coexistence solutions cost about \$5,000 each. While that price is often too much for a landowner to pay, this is “budget dust” compared to what we are spending on the restoration industrial complex. With the support of HB 3143, landowners get a stable solution, and Oregonians get another family of beavers building water security and habitat resiliency in our land base.
- **Landowners need support.** In 2023, the passage of HB 3464 shifted Oregon’s approach to beavers on private lands from promoting extermination to promoting coexistence. However, there is no funding in the “Beaver State” for landowners who are looking to coexist with beavers. House Bill 3143 is a necessary next step for empowering landowners to act in accordance with this shift to partnering with beavers.

We ask for your support of House Bill 3143 on behalf of those downstream.

Sincerely,

Jakob Shockey, Executive Director