

January 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,
HB 3143: Oregon State Legislature

HB 3143 The Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund will be established within Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) through the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund (OCRF) to provide funding that supports beaver coexistence strategies for private landowners efficiently, quickly, and as needed.

If HB 3464 from 2023 which removed beavers from the predatory animal list, and is to be more than symbolic it is critical to pass HB 3143.

I would like to explain the situation and my experience with beavers. My family has owned 60 acres in Washington County for many decades. We have grown crops such as wheat, fescue, hay, clover on the prime soils that exist. The land is flat and a creek runs through the middle of the property and in parts there is always some natural flooding which dries up in the spring. We had been aware of beavers in the area and on other properties but never had any problems. In 2017, major problems started at the creek and there was major flooding over several acres of property making those acres unusable and killing the crop. We still had not found a solution into the summer and the standing water because of the soon to be discovered beaver dam was a large mosquito breeding ground and bad smelling water. The beaver also wiped out all of the trees along the river and a large stand of poplar trees. After discovering a beaver dam through the help of groups like the Tualatin Soil Water and Conservation District we did not necessarily want to kill the beavers and other farmers that had long trapped never seemed to get rid of them and was a constant trouble and the flooding continued. Farmers had also developed their own boring equipment to destroy the dams but beavers being busy creatures soon rebuilt and everyone was back to square one. We were not sure what to do and no easy solution had been suggested until we met Jakob Shockey of Beaver State Wildlife Solutions, who had a brilliant solution where beavers and humans could co-exist. In the development of the beaver deceiver, we cleared the dam and placed in the problem area the deceiver with large pipe and cattle panel fencing. We also had to work in conjunction with the land owner next to us that shared the creek where the beaver dam was technically on his property but the flooding was occurring on our side. The land has been restored and farmable, the beavers are still on the property and everyone exists together.

The Tualatin Water Soil and Conservation District awarded us a grant of almost \$5,000 dollars which allowed for the initial installation of the non-lethal mitigation deceiver. It also paid for the next two years of continued maintenance. This was a huge help, as many small and even large land owners are working on the thinnest of margins and do not necessarily have the money to spend on such deceivers. My family has paid every year a continued maintenance fee which has been worth every penny especially when there has been an issue. However, like everything prices have gone up for the yearly fee and to install the devices. Right now, that money is coming out of pocket. To have funding available would be a huge help.

The grant process through TWSCD was also a very easy process and approved quickly in order to get the money. This bill has bi-partisan support and is endorsed by several environmental groups. I would encourage the bill if passed for it to be the same. I strongly encourage this HB

3143 to pass and would be a worthy allocation of funds from the state's robust budget to help not only humans but wildlife and beavers as well especially as wildfires and other natural disasters become more prevalent.

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