

Submitter: Karen Sjogren

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

I have always felt that a carrot rather than a stick approach is most effective in reaching wildlife conservation goals. This bill would use the "carrot" strategy in the form of a grant program to encourage landowners to use humane and non-lethal means to resolve conflicts with beavers on their property and encourage stewardship with educational assistance. Beavers are nature's engineers and can increase and enhance wetlands and biological diversity. Within our state they can restore riparian corridors and create an environment which supports many rare and sensitive plants and animals. Much of the suitable beaver habitat is on private land, and this bill will strengthen the beaver's ability to assist in achieving wetland habitat conservation and enhancement on these lands. Let's get the beaver bill passed this session.