

Submitter: Debra Merskin

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

Thank you, Committee members, for considering this crucial bill. It applies to ALL Oregonians who are interested in our wildlife, our lands, and our waterways. Whether rural or urban, this bill, which establishes the Landowners Living with Beavers grant program in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation fund, will offer nonlethal means of mitigation, promoting coexistence with these important animals. Data support that beaver habitats help to recharge groundwater, enhance fire resiliency, create climate refugia for other species, improve water quality, and support healthy habitats for salmon. Grants will provide landowners with much-needed resources to make the shift from historically lethal practices to ones that support shared habitats.