



2/3/2025

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

From: Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

Re: Support for HB 3143

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Oregon's watershed councils, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils ("NOWC") supports HB 3143, Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Fund Program.

NOWC supports the work of Oregon's community-based watershed councils through capacity building, trainings, and by providing a voice with government agencies and funders. Watershed councils are led by natural resource experts and scientists and are guided by boards led by local community members. Councils conduct voluntary conservation projects to restore and enhance the waters and lands for native species and for people.

A critical component of our state's healthy habitats is the inclusion of beaver, whose work in and along creeks assist with groundwater recharge, fire resiliency, water quality improvement, and the creation and protection of healthy habitat for salmon and other species.

ODFW's 3-year Beaver Action Plan will not just benefit beaver species and habitat, it will support Oregon's watershed councils in the work they do in our communities, directly with residents and landowners. However, ODFW's Beaver Action Plan needs funding in order to be implemented.

**We urge you to vote yes on HB 3143 and provide funding to support our local beaver habitats and communities.**

Thank you,

Terri Preeg Riggsby  
Executive Director, NOWC