

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

Oregon chose the beaver as our state animal in 1969, and we are often called the "Beaver State." But that isn't the only, or the most important, reason that we should do our utmost to protect beavers. They were once abundant across much of our state, and are known to play an important role in water and wetland management, flood control, nutrient cycling, and erosion prevention. Beavers therefore may provide crucial help to us, as unpaid engineers, in combating some of the effects of ongoing drought and other changes in Oregon's climate. They can cause damage and difficulties for some landowners, however, so the Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund sounds like a timely and much needed program to provide funding that supports beaver coexistence strategies for private landowners efficiently, quickly, and as needed. They are not endangered now, but their population has drastically diminished over time, and they continue to be hunted, trapped and exterminated as nuisance animals across our state. So I very much welcome anything that can be done to improve their chances of surviving and then helping us with our problems! Thank You.