

# WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public  
in water stewardship.*

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**In Memoriam**  
John L. Gardiner

February 4, 2025

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

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair  
Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair  
Representative Sarah Finger McDonald, Vice-Chair  
Representatives Court Boice, Annessa Hartman, Bobby Levy, Pam Marsh,  
Susan McLain, Anna Scharf

RE: Water League supports HB 3143 to Establish a Living with Beavers Grant  
Program in Oregon Statute.

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and  
committee members,

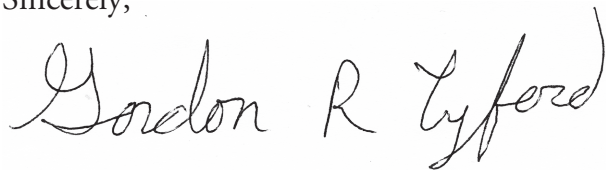
Water League engages the public in water stewardship because the waters of  
Oregon belong to all citizens, and they wish to hold water in trust. We recognize  
that land and water are one system that flora, fauna, and humans depend on.  
We support programs that restore natural habitat conditions to our lands and  
waters.

Oregon has the only double-sided flag in the United States, with the state seal  
on one side and a beaver on the other. Oregon should honor the beaver in  
reality and not just depict it on its flag. The starkly ironic extirpation of beavers  
has resulted in significant ecological harm, and we should embrace their work  
and presence.

Oregon should reverse the historical mistreatment of beavers. Beavers provide many benefits to streams and the environment: they reduce stream erosion, slow floods, cool water temperatures, create pools for fish, recharge groundwater, and more. We understand that some landowners are concerned with beavers causing property damage. HB 3143 can be helpful in developing creative cooperation between beavers and humans. [Project Beaver](#) contains a wealth of beaver information and solutions for living with beavers and partnering with them for our mutual benefit.

Therefore, Water League strongly supports HB 3143 to establish and fund the Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program in statute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon R Lyford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Gordon Lyford CWRE #341

Board Member