

Submitter: Margaret Stephens

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

Beavers are "essential workers" in Oregon! I support this bill to assist landowners to coexist with beavers.

Beavers play a crucial role in maintaining Oregon's natural landscapes. Their habitats help:

- Recharge groundwater, ensuring sustainable water supplies.
- Improve fire resilience by creating wetlands that act as natural fire breaks.
- Provide essential habitats for salmon and other wildlife while improving water quality.

HB 3143 builds on the success of HB 3464 from 2023, which reclassified beavers as furbearers on private lands. By providing landowners with financial assistance and access to non-lethal mitigation tools, this bill addresses the challenges of managing beaver presence and encourages coexistence. Additionally, it invests in technical expertise and capacity-building, ensuring sustainable support for private landowners across the state.

As an Oregonian who values our natural ecosystems and the farmers, ranchers, and private landowners who steward our land, I believe HB 3143 represents a win-win opportunity for both wildlife and our communities. I urge you to support this important legislation and advocate for its passage.