

Submitter: John Bellville
On Behalf Of: Illinois Valley SWCD
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Illinois Valley SWCD for House Bill 3143, which establishes the Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program. This bill represents a significant step forward in fostering coexistence between humans and beavers, and I believe it will have a positive impact on our environment and communities.

Beavers are keystone species that play a crucial role in creating and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Their dam-building activities help to increase water storage, improve water quality, and create habitat for a variety of other wildlife species. By supporting this bill, we can encourage landowners to work with beavers rather than against them, leading to more sustainable land management practices and healthier ecosystems.

The Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program will provide much-needed financial support to landowners who wish to implement beaver-friendly practices on their property. This program will not only benefit the beavers but also the broader community by reducing the risk of flooding, enhancing groundwater recharge, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

I urge you to support HB3143 and help ensure that Oregon continues to lead the way in innovative and environmentally responsible wildlife management. Thank you for considering the Illinois Valley SWCD's views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Bellville
District Manager; Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District