

Submitter: Marleigh Dunning

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

I am writing in support of HB 3143. Beavers are an important keystone species. There are several incredible ecological and economic benefits associated with their presence on the landscape, including elevated water tables, increased water availability, improved water quality, increased sediment retention, reduced risk of flooding, and increased biodiversity. These ecological effects and benefits are of particular interests in dry, flashy ecosystems with incised stream channels, such as several of the streams in Central and Eastern Oregon. Due to the landscape-wide changes that are observed when beavers are present, landholders sometimes experience conflicts with beavers on their land. These conflicts are often resolved either by lethal removal of the beaver, or coexistence solutions. When beavers are lethally removed from areas, the ecosystem loses both the beavers and the ecological benefits associated with it. Therefore, resources that support coexistence with beavers support not only these incredible animals, but the ecological and economic benefits that occur when they are present. The Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program, which would provide funds for landholders to seek out coexistence solutions, could be such a resource. I urge the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water to support this bill.