



Support for House Bill 3143

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Before the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use Natural Resources & Water

Co-Chairs Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and Committee Members:

The Conservation Angler is a wild fish and wild rivers advocacy organization based in Oregon. The Conservation Angler supports HB 3143, and we are grateful to our colleagues across the state who have been busy (like our beavers) working with all stakeholders and landowners to bring another important legislative solution forward with widespread support.

Beavers provide critical and sustainable benefits to Oregon's aquatic environment, providing a natural and ecological boost to stream flows, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat connectivity, water quality, floodplain restoration and wetland health.

Additionally, the temporary storage of water in ponds and wetlands helps mitigate the effects of drought and temper flooding, both of which are critically important in helping Oregon address the impacts of climate change.

✓ Beavers are the most effective and affordable watershed restoration practitioners in Oregon.

This bill will encourage the trend towards co-existence that is vital to build on Oregon's revised treatment of beavers on the diverse landscapes across the state.

Oregon will face increased challenges amplified by climate change impacts on precipitation patterns, air temperatures and the frequency and intensity of natural weather events.

✓ Beavers on the landscape will help absorb and buffer the impacts of our changing climate.

✓ Beavers will help build and restore salmonid habitat – adding a cost-effective and sustainable salmonid habitat multiplier to the many restoration investments being made across the state.

The Conservation Angler urges the Committee to support and fund HB 3143.

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