



Oregon Zoo
Together for Wildlife

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February 6, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3143

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Zoo and our supporters, I strongly support HB 3143, the *Landowners Living with Beavers* bill, which funds grants to help landowners coexist with beavers.

Coexistence is a conservation priority for the zoo, from polar bears in the Arctic to elephants in Borneo. Here in Oregon, it's more important than ever to provide landowners with the tools to live alongside wildlife.

Beavers shape landscapes—creating fertile soil, improving water retention, supporting salmon habitat, and enhancing climate resilience. Protecting them protects the natural systems that benefit us all. That's why we must support landowners in using non-lethal solutions like pond levelers and “beaver deceivers.” HB 3143 removes cost and capacity barriers to non-lethal management, building on Oregon's long legacy of landowner conservation.

At the zoo, we've seen perceptions shift—from beavers as pests to habitat superheroes—reflected in the millions of social media fans of our residents, Maple and Filbert. Supporting HB 3143 will expand this network of *beaver believers* by investing in evidence-based coexistence solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shervin Hess
Conservation Manager
Oregon Zoo