



To
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR

02.20.2025

Re: Testimony in opposition of SB 354

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and members of the Committee

This testimony is submitted by the Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) which consists of Bird Alliance of Oregon, Cascadia Wildlands, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane World for Animals (formerly Humane Society of the United States), Humane Voters Oregon, Oregon Wild, Think Wild, Western Environmental Law Center and Willamette Riverkeeper. Oregon Wildlife Coalition opposes SB 354 in that we are unsure what problem the bill is trying to solve. Specifically, we have the following comments:

- Nothing in current law prohibits relocation of beavers from western side of the state to the eastern/central side of the state. Currently, any relocation effort has to follow ODFW beaver relocation guidelines that are put in place to prevent unintended consequence of relocation such as transfer of invasive species from one water basin to another. The bill mentions that any relocation will be in consultation with ODFW which is also currently the situation on the ground
- The proposed language in SB 354 is in the Private Forest Accord (PFA) statute. PFA already recognizes relocation as tool in the toolbox of non-lethal conflict mitigation with beavers.
- The success rate of relocation is usually low. Factors that can contribute to the low success rate includes complex nature of beaver families, their preference for sites, predation, and the protocols used during relocation and introduction to new sites. Relocation success rates are usually within under 50% after one year.
- SB 354 doesn't specifically mention the relocation is in response to conflict. Beavers are necessary in our ecosystems and any relocation should be in response to conflict, and not because it is wanted out of an area even if the beaver is not causing any damage.

- Lastly, the regions identified in the bill are not specific and lack clear boundaries. It is also unclear if the relocation of beavers from the western side of the state is specifically from lands under PFA (which is the statute it modifies) or all lands on the western side of the state.

We hope you consider our arguments above and do not pass SB 354

Thanking you

Sincerely

Cascadia Wildlands

Oregon Wild

Defenders of Wildlife

Western Environmental Law Center

Think Wild

*Humane World for Animals (formerly
Humane Society of the United States)*

Humane Voters Oregon

Bird Alliance of Oregon

Willamette Riverkeeper