

Submitter: Lynn Herring

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Chair Rep. Lively, Rep. Vice-Chair Gamba, Rep. Vice-Chair Levy and Members of the Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

I urge you to support HB 3932 to close Beaver hunting and trapping in waterways on public lands that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) classifies as impaired (more than 2/3 of surveyed waterways in Oregon) in order for Beavers to help improve water quality and restore habitat. In essence, the bill would allow Beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways for free.

Beavers are ecosystem engineers. Their activities, such as canal-digging and dam-building, help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, and create wildlife and fish habitat at the same time.

Almost half of all of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality. That's over 100,000 miles of waterways. The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways but lacks the resources to do this at the scale needed. This is where Beavers can help.

Beaver dam complexes can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest and increasing beaver population. Instead, this bill would enable Beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out.

In stewardship of our Oregon waterways provided by their helpmates - Beavers,

Sincerely,

Lynn Herring