

Submitter: Nancy Phillips

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

We live and play in Central Oregon and have for a long time. And we have seen the areas within the National Forest where they have allowed beavers to return, like the Fall River and Deschutes. And the beavers have made a significant difference in the area. We hike along these rivers and see the vegetation change after their arrival and the increased open story as they fall some of the trees. The banks and rivers are also changed as they make their “dams” and burrows and the water flows spread out. I’m an engineer and recognize the value and amazingly quick change that occurs, and our friends that accompany us, see it too. We need to restore our rivers & streams and we also support ONDA in their endeavors as well - When beavers thrive, they benefit a host of other species, including human communities. Beavers improve stream health, increase climate resilience, and promote fire resistance, which we desperately need here in Central Oregon!

This common sense bill, HB 3932, would temporarily close beaver trapping where they are needed most: on waters the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has determined have “impaired” water quality. Nearly one-third of Oregon’s stream miles are listed as impaired, contending with elevated water temperatures and high levels of sedimentation, toxins or other pollutants. Research has shown that beavers are incredibly effective at improving water quality—if we leave them in peace to do their work. Please support this bill.