

Submitter: Kaitlyn Sellers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I've worked with stream restoration on both sides of the Cascades, and the number one cost-free way to effectively have healthy rivers and better water quality and retention is to keep beavers in place. Beavers provide benefits on both sides of the mountains. They stem the tide against the spread of wildfires due to riparian buffers and thinning smaller trees. In the east, where rivers are incised due to human and cattle use, beavers retain water and create streams that last the whole year- not just after a rain. Beavers that come into an area naturally shows that there's potential for increased river health without funding needed for Beaver Dam Analogues, and they should be protected as their effects reach far and wide in the region.