

Submitter: Beth Flake

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I'm writing in support of HB 3932 asking you to do your part to improve water quality in the lowest cost manner possible by allowing beavers to thrive in at least some areas of our state. This bill is very selective by targeting only rivers and streams designated as category 4 or category 5 by DEQ's water quality standards. Both indicate impaired waterways. The bill also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act. I strongly support this bill which proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are deemed impaired by DEQ. Strong scientific evidence suggests beaver dam complexes can address most of these water quality issues and beavers will do this important work at no cost to the taxpayers.

ODFW's 2023 data showed only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.