

Submitter: Wendy Scholz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I've participated in stream restoration projects in Central Oregon and seen first hand the benefits beaver have on stream health, increased climate resilience, and promotion of fire resistance. One project was to build beaver dam analogues at locations nearly devoid of plants, especially plants which normally grow along streams. The beaver dam analogues slow down the water flow and floods adjacent areas allowing the stream to spread and create underground reservoirs that support the growth of riparian plants and helps cool the water supporting aquatic life such as fish. We worked very hard to do what beavers do naturally in hopes of creating an environment that would entice beavers to move back to the area and expand and maintain what we clumsily started. The oasis becomes a refuge for wildlife at a time when climate change and wildfires are a real threat. When beavers thrive, they benefit a host of other species, including human communities. Please protect them.