

Submitter: Andrew Menlow
On Behalf Of: Beavers
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Greetings,

I fully support HB3932 as it represents the acknowledgment of scientific and obvious evidence that beavers are a keystone species for watershed/riparian health and the plethora of associated benefits they bring .

While an argument could be made that private timberlands have some justification for protecting said timberlands, these protected areas would not interfere with those landholders. Trapping beavers (or any wildlife) strictly for recreational/pelt sales should be illegal as only very few people partake in this "tradition" that is increasingly out of step with our increasing human population. Much like whaling, there is no need or justification for such a hobby and it's definitely reasonable to restrict this hobby in certain areas because the good clearly outweighs the wants of a tiny minority.

Though it's a tiny minority, even one trapper can decimate a watershed's beaver population. Why? So the individual can make a few dollars, likely not even enough to break even on the expense incurred, so they can feel like a 'mountain man' in most cases. This shouldn't even be a debate, watershed health and water preservation vs some person who wants to sell some pelts for a hobby.

This doesn't outlaw trapping any more than a wildlife refuge or closed season outlaws hunting or fishing.

Please use common sense instead of bowing to a tiny, loud minority, and support this bill.

Thank You,
Andrew M.