

Submitter: Mike Higgins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I grew up in Hereford, a small town in the upper Burnt River valley and spent almost all of my time outside, a lot of that time fishing and hunting along the north Fork of the Burnt River. Watching beavers was one of the activities my friends and I enjoyed the most, as they built their dams and lodges and - if we were lucky - getting to see their litters emerge from the lodges. As the saying goes: those were the good old days. I've been back to the North Fork country many times over the past 70+ years and have yet to see any beavers. That's sad.

The pastures that grew enough hay for the few cows my friend's parents owned are now dry, unaided by the spring and summer water the beaver dams formerly provided. No more slaps of beaver tails when they were startled by our attempts to sneak up on them. No more willow trees, nurtured by those same beaver-dam waters. The water table has dropped too much to allow seedlings to establish their roots.

It's long past time we restored beavers to that landscape.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the beavers.

Respectfully,

Mike Higgins
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