

Submitter: Pamela Reber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Commissioners,

Let us take a moment to reflect upon what is important to communicate to the public, and what the public truly understands and supports. And what I mean is, most people think ecosystems are functioning on their own and that wild animals are relatively unmanaged. To build momentum for an initiative such as this one requires telling large numbers of people that hundreds of thousands of animals of many types have been systematically killed every year for decades. And as the numbers of every species targeted by Wildlife Services drop, so do the attendant species that relied upon them. Let's think about prey animals for example, their numbers inevitably dropped from starvation due to overpopulation when the war on predators began except maybe the omnivores that benefitted from being able to scavenge. And now with the fragmentation of so much habitat, it is extremely difficult to know what patches of wild places is usable habitat. Let's skip that depressing and heartbreaking message campaign by stopping the onslaught on beavers now with this measure.

Protecting beavers is a completely selfish act. Waterways and watersheds are in shambles and at dire risk of variable climate conditions and increased drought. Keeping water on the landscape as long as possible should probably be a constitutional amendment at this point. And a state Endangered Species Act is also needed. No matter the action, the time for action is now. The time for beavers is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Reber