

Submitter: Allegra Helfenstein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I recently read Ben Goldfarb's book *Eager: the Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter* and learned what creative natural engineers they are and how their loss resulted in tremendous environmental damage, not just in Oregon and others of the United States, but in so many other countries as well, and how their nurturing and reintroduction has benefitted not just the environment but the local and regional economies as well, especially in protecting against drought and in hard to reach areas distant from human engineers and their mechanized equipment; and at a much lower cost than human engineering. Water, especially clean, drinkable water, is becoming an ever more precious commodity, and we need to develop and conserve our water resources, and ensuring that beavers can remain where they are needed is vital to our own survival and growth. I am doing my part as an individual by volunteering for nearby habitat restoration projects with McKenzie River Trust and have read with great anticipation about restoration projects in eastern Oregon proposed by Oregon Natural Desert Association, but the effectiveness of those restoration projects will be limited if beavers can be extracted from where where they are doing their critical engineering magic. This bill does not propose blanket beaver protection but provides guard rails, e.g. to permit appropriate beaver removal. Thank you for your consideration of this cost-effective method to help restore our essential water resources for the benefit of all. And tourists like them!