

Submitter: John Jensen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Chair Helm and Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and esteemed members of the committee, I stand before you as a lifelong Oregon resident, joined in sentiment by my entire family, to express our unwavering support for HB 3143. I want to emphasize that our support is not driven by any personal financial gain related to our ranch on Trout Creek. Rather, it comes from a deep-seated commitment to the ecological well-being of our state.

Our conviction in the importance of this bill is rooted in direct observation and experience. We've seen the extraordinary impact of beavers on stream health, both through our own conservation work on our ranch on Trout Creek in the Blue Mountains, and through dedicated volunteer work with the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) on various stream restoration projects. The contrast between streams devoid of beaver activity and those where beavers thrive is striking. Beavers create intricate, dynamic systems that enhance water quality, increase biodiversity, and bolster resilience against drought, fires, and flooding.

The reality is, beavers are essential engineers of healthy waterways. HB 3143 provides a critical framework for supporting their natural work, offering an unparalleled return on investment for environmental restoration. In a state that proudly identifies as the 'Beaver State,' we have a responsibility to champion these keystone species. This bill is not just a policy; it's a commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural legacy that defines Oregon. I respectfully urge you to pass HB 3143.