Dear Chair Rep. Lively, Rep. Vice-Chair Gamba, Rep. Vice-Chair Levy and members of the committee,

I have lived in Oregon since 1978. Being an animal lover and nature lover since childhood, I've paid special attention to beavers and their amazing life styles. Historically,Oregon was named "the Beaver State", for its green valleys, meadows, and forests, created and supported by these industrious little creatures. Oregon now is a far cry from that rich green, water filled environment of those days as beavers were trapped and hunted, almost annihilated, for their pelts. The moist rich landscape was drastically changed. Moist rich meadows and valleys dried up and water, no longer held by the work of beavers, rushed down stream causing erosion and flooding below.

Now we see the benefits of these creatures and how they save water, restore water tables, underground aquifers, and actually can filter toxins as they do it, creating improved water quality. They create waterways that provide shade and riparian habitat good for fish and other wildlife.

Water is imperative to all of us and improving the quality and availability is drastically important in this ever drying world.

I urge you to support HB 3932 to allow beavers to improve watershed health, protect water quality and help restore Oregon's impaired waterways. We now know the benefits of beavers as ecosystem engineers. Let's allow this keystone species to continue to provide benefits to watersheds by preventing lethal removal on public lands where they live on water quality impaired waterways.

This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest or hunting. Instead, it allows beavers to access waterways where they need to be and stay long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out.

Science shows the work of beavers can address most of the water quality issues of concern. Lets let them do it!!! And they don't charge for their work!!