

Submitter: Becky Orf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

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

I urge you to support HB 3932 to allow beavers to improve watershed health, protect water quality and help restore Oregon's impaired waterways. Thousands of miles of Oregon's waterways are in poor health. Scientific evidence has shown the benefits of beavers as "ecosystem engineers" who can address most of the water quality issues of concern. The activities of beavers help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, enhance streamside shade, riparian areas, and wetlands that buffer and filter toxins, and create wildlife and fish habitat at the same time. Beavers should be protected so they can continue to provide free benefits to watersheds.

This bill is not about limiting beaver harvest or hunting. Instead, this bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped and removed.

Please help protect and restore Oregon's waterways with the help of beavers.