

Submitter: Carlton Smith
On Behalf Of: Science based wildlife management
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

RE: Opposition to HB 3932

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3932, which would eliminate the ability of trappers and wildlife control operators to remove beavers in certain waters. While the intent of this bill may be to protect beaver populations, it ultimately undermines science-based wildlife management and creates unintended consequences for both the environment and taxpayers.

Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) currently uses science-based data to regulate trapping and manage beaver populations in a sustainable manner. This bill removes the agency's ability to make informed decisions based on population studies, habitat impact, and ecological balance. Instead, it imposes a one-size-fits-all restriction that disregards the complexities of beaver management and the varying needs of different regions.

Additionally, HB 3932 could place an unnecessary financial burden on both the state and private landowners. Problematic beaver activity—such as flooding roads, damaging infrastructure, and blocking irrigation systems—must still be managed. Without the ability for licensed trappers and wildlife control operators to remove beavers through existing furbearer trapping seasons, the state will have to step in, resulting in increased costs for taxpayers and constituents. By allowing regulated trapping, the state can continue to manage beaver populations effectively without shifting the financial burden to government agencies and property owners.

Rather than restricting ODFW's ability to manage beaver populations, I urge you to support policies that promote balanced, science-based wildlife management. I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 3932 and instead allow ODFW to continue making informed decisions that benefit both Oregon's ecosystems and its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.