

Submitter: Daniel Bauman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I strongly support the measure instructing the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the taking of beavers in protected watersheds and on public lands within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark.

Beavers serve as keystone species and ecosystem engineers whose activities create wetland habitats that benefit countless other species. Scientific research conclusively demonstrates that beaver dams improve water quality by filtering sediments and pollutants, while simultaneously increasing groundwater recharge and mitigating drought impacts.

Beaver-created wetlands act as natural firebreaks and carbon sinks, sequestering greenhouse gases and building climate resilience. These natural systems provide ecosystem services worth millions of dollars annually through flood control, water purification, and habitat creation – all at no cost to taxpayers.

The proposed measure represents sound, science-based policy that balances ecological needs with human interests. By protecting beavers in critical watersheds, Oregon can harness nature's own engineers to address water security, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation challenges simultaneously.

I urge you to support this measure as a cost-effective investment in Oregon's environmental and economic future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Bauman