

Submitter: Emma Swartz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support HB 3932 as someone who cares about wildlife, clean water, healthy thriving ecosystems, and wildfire mitigation. Beavers are incredibly skilled and efficient at improving all of these things, and in a time when our water quality and fire resilience are deteriorating due to global warming & pollution, we can't afford to be losing the help that they provide us for free on these vulnerable waterways.

I have read several books & scientific papers about beavers and their effects on the surrounding water systems, and have spent 3-4 years volunteering for Bark on Mt Hood, surveying wetlands and specifically monitoring beaver habitat, because of their power to improve and restore ecosystems, waterways, and even underground aquifers.

While I would personally prefer for all or almost all beavers to be protected from trapping, I feel that this bill is a good start and an obvious win for the vast majority of people who just want to enjoy nature and to live in an environment that is able to provide resources we need to live & to spring back from the wildfires that threaten our safety and peace of mind every year.

Those who wish to trap beavers would still have plenty of opportunities to do so under this bill in areas where they are not so desperately needed. And even those who trap beavers should be able to see that giving them safe spaces to live, reproduce, and disperse into the surrounding areas is a good idea and could even positively impact their access to beavers over time.

Thank you,
Emma Swartz