

Submitter: Eva Lazarus

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I support HB 3932:

HB 3932 proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are deemed impaired by DEQ. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address most of these water quality issues. And they do it for FREE.

ODFW's 2023 data showed that only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized as Category 4 or 5 by DEQ's water quality standards – both indicate impaired waterways. This also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act. More than 2/3rd of surveyed waterways in Oregon (106,390 miles) are currently classified as "impaired"

DEQ deems waters impaired based on certain criteria such as water temperature, sedimentation, level of dissolved oxygen, to name a few.