

Submitter: Ruth Olsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I would like to voice my support for HB3932 which limits trapping of beavers on public lands. For too long, our waterways have undergone abuse and neglect in various forms. Most are in degraded condition and water quality suffers, which affects everything that relies on the waterway and water supply. Beavers are nature's engineers and beaver complexes provide improvements to water quality, quantity and habitat for many species. Low numbers of beavers are trapped on public lands, which is probably due to the fact that they are no longer present in many of these areas. Letting beavers move back into our waterways will improve our public lands and will give beavers a place to dwell where they can thrive and reproduce, expanding their territory into other areas, which will also benefit trappers. This is an almost zero cost solution to a lot of habitat conservation and restoration. As a former wildlife biologist, I was personally aware of restoration projects that specifically attempted to enhance areas for beavers so that they would move back in and start building dams. The benefits for fish are numerous, but the water quality improvements alone are worth pushing this bill forward. Thanks for your consideration.