

Submitter: Erich Reeder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy and Committee Members,

I write to ask you to please support HB 3932 to allow beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways. My name is Erich Reeder and as a native and lifelong Oregonian, I fully support the passage of HB3932 to help beavers help us. Before the arrival of trapping brigades 200 years ago, beavers ranged throughout Oregon, cutting saplings and trees, building dams, and otherwise greatly affecting all our streams and rivers. Since then, with the trapping out of beavers and other significant human impacts, our stream and rivers have suffered and declined in water quality, so that currently 106,390 miles of 142,813 miles assessed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are classified as impaired. That is a whopping 75% of our streams and rivers that have been assessed. Another 167,651 miles of our streams and rivers have yet to be assessed, but they are likely to be in the same poor condition. This is appalling.

As ample scientific research shows, beavers and their dams are a natural solution to water pollution, and we would be wise to let them tirelessly help us improve our water quality throughout the state free of charge. HB 3932 is a good step in this direction, by simply restricting the hunting and trapping of these waterway wizards on public lands with streams and rivers already designated by the DEQ as impaired. It really is a no-brainer. And the bill even has a remedy in instances of damage caused by beavers on adjacent private lands.

Therefore, I fully support the passage of HB 3932 and urge all of Oregon's elected representatives in our legislature to vote for it.

Thanks & go beavers!

Erich Reeder