

Submitter: Frank Huebsch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Thank you for your consideration for protecting beavers on public lands to help improve water quality and riparian ecology under HB 3932. I am writing in support of HB 3932 and have reviewed the fact sheet at the following link:

<https://t.e2ma.net/click/2mjnzr/a1b9kw/e0hk6yc>

As a resident of Bend Oregon, a retired civil engineer and volunteer steward for public lands in Central Oregon, I am keenly aware of the public needs to improve water quality, riparian ecology, groundwater replenishment, and wildfire resilience which would be well-served by the proposed legislation.

The natural resources of the State of Oregon are arguably among the most important values to its residents and a major attraction to visitors from around the world.

The account of allowing beaver dams to treat polluted stormwater at the Columbia Regional Water Quality Facility in Gresham, Oregon, with the threefold goal “to clean the water, create a wildlife habitat, and provide the public with educational opportunities and a place to connect with nature” is compelling. After conducting a two-year study, it turned out that the beavers outperformed the engineered system in cleaning the polluted stormwater (Sweet in Tooth and Claw, Kristen Ohlson, Patagonia Books, 2022, pp 376-81).

I am informed of the volunteer services provided by the Oregon Natural Desert Association and others in restoring streams and wetlands, including the installation of analog beaver dams. Although these efforts are important tools and are effective, they are not a substitute for the natural resources services provided by the beaver.

As this winter 2025 is forecast to end the 5-year drought in Central Oregon with a snow pack currently reported at 40 percent above normal, I believe now is the best time to pass HB 3932.

Please pass HB 3032 now and give beavers a chance to earn the respect of all Oregonians!