

Submitter: SUSAN DORNFELD

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I support HB 3932. If passed, HB 3932 will create rules to protect the lives of beavers on waterways that are on public land. Beavers are important because most of Oregon's waterways struggle with the following water issues: (1) high water temperature, (2) sedimentation, (3) dissolved oxygen level, (4) poor health of invertebrates and shellfish, and (5) toxins. Beaver dam complexes address four of these top five factors -- free of charge!

DEQ has found 106,390 miles of waterways that it deems impaired, and only 46% of rivers and streams have been assessed. DEQ lacks the resources to restore impaired waterways. Why not protect beavers so they can help improve Oregon's water quality?