

Submitter: Marleigh Dunning

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I am writing in support of HB 3932. Beavers are an incredible keystone species that are associated with a wide variety of ecological benefits. These benefits include elevating water tables, improving water quality, increasing biodiversity, and increased sediment retention, among other things. The benefits beavers can afford the landscape are of particular interest in dry, flashy, heavily eroded ecosystems, which are frequently observed in Central and Eastern Oregon. Due to the landscape-wide changes they enact, changes that are observed when beavers are present, landholders sometimes experience conflicts with beavers on their land. These conflicts are sometimes resolved by beaver trapping. Additionally, some citizens trap beavers for recreation. However, when beavers are lethally removed for areas for any reason, that ecosystem loses both the beavers and the ecological benefits associated with it. Protecting beavers from trapping not only protects these incredible animals, but protects the ecosystems they inhabit. I urge the members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment to support this bill.