

Submitter: Randall Byerly
On Behalf Of: Oregon Trappers Association
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I write today in opposition to House Bill 3932, which would which prohibit beaver harvesting in certain waterways and watersheds. While the intent of this legislation may be to improve water quality and habitat by protecting beaver populations, the bill's one-size-fits-all approach threatens the effectiveness of professional wildlife management efforts. Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) currently uses science-based data to regulate trapping and manage beaver populations in a sustainable manner. This bill, however, undermines the thorough scientific review process already conducted by these experts, who have three times rejected similar bans on beaver trapping due to insufficient evidence. Beavers do not universally improve stream ecosystems; in fact, scientific studies show that outcomes are very site-specific. Beaver activity can sometimes result in detrimental impacts, such as increased water temperatures that threaten cold-water species.

Instead of restricting ODFW's ability to manage beaver populations, please support policies and expertise that promote balanced, science-based wildlife management. I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 3932 and instead allow ODFW to continue making informed decisions that benefit both Oregon's ecosystems and its residents.

Thank you for your consideration.