

Submitter: Jordan Ng  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Testimony Opposing HB 3932

Members of the Committee,

I write today in strong opposition to HB 3932, a bill that disregards established wildlife management expertise and threatens Oregon's science-based approach to conservation. Three times, state biologists and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission have reviewed proposals to ban beaver trapping on public lands, and three times they have rejected them based on a lack of scientific justification. This repeated dismissal should serve as a clear indication that the proposed policy is not supported by the best available science.

HB 3932 rests on the oversimplified premise that beavers universally improve stream health. While it is true that beavers can play a beneficial role in certain ecosystems, their impact is highly site-specific. Scientific studies indicate that in some cases, beaver activity can lower water temperatures and enhance riparian habitats, but in others, it can lead to increased water temperatures, habitat degradation, and even adverse effects on fish populations. Oregon's diverse landscapes require a nuanced, adaptive management approach—one that is already in place under ODFW's Beaver Management Plan.

Rather than allowing politics to dictate wildlife policy, we must continue to trust the professionals appointed to the ODFW Commission—individuals vetted and confirmed by the Oregon Senate to make informed, science-driven decisions. By circumventing this established process, HB 3932 sets a dangerous precedent, substituting legislative overreach for sound wildlife management.

Oregon has long been a leader in conservation, balancing habitat preservation with responsible, regulated wildlife practices. HB 3932 undermines that balance by prioritizing emotion over evidence and politics over professionalism. I urge you to reject this bill and reaffirm Oregon's commitment to science-based wildlife stewardship.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Ng