

Submitter: Sue Leonetti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I am writing in strong support of HB 3932. This legislation seeks to prohibit trapping of a native species, namely beaver in the vicinity of certain designated waterways/watersheds. The purpose being the restoration and rehabilitation of such areas that have become degraded.

Our native beaver are amazing creatures. Numerous studies and projects around the state of Oregon have shown the restorative value to natural areas by simply allowing beaver to colonize and inhabit streams and waterways. Beaver, in their natural process of building dams, can greatly improve these areas. Their activity of building dams works to contain water in areas that may have become shallow and silted in. Native vegetation is naturally encouraged to grow and fill in again.

What better solution to restoring streams and wetlands than encouraging native beaver to provide a completely natural, low tech, low cost remedy! Again, I believe HB 3932 which restricts trapping of beaver in designated areas is the best method to achieve the goal of restoring degraded natural areas and bringing back native wildlife habitat.