

Submitter: John Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB 3932, as it represents an unnecessary and unwarranted legislative overreach into Oregon's wildlife management. Oregon has long entrusted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission, with its qualified professionals and experts, to make informed, science-based decisions for the sustainable management of our wildlife populations, including beavers.

Governor Tina Kotek's appointees, confirmed by the Oregon Senate, possess the knowledge and expertise necessary to effectively manage our state's wildlife resources. They are committed to protecting Oregon's natural balance, and their comprehensive Beaver Management Plan, developed with careful research and consideration, serves as a model of responsible wildlife stewardship.

The issue of banning beaver trapping on federal and state lands has already been thoroughly examined by the ODFW Commission. It has been presented three separate times and rejected on each occasion due to the absence of compelling scientific evidence to support such a ban. Instead of dictating management decisions from the legislative level, we should trust the professionals at ODFW, who have the training and resources to evaluate the needs of our ecosystems and implement the best solutions for all stakeholders.

HB 3932 seeks to impose a solution without scientific backing and disregards the careful, evidence-driven approach that has proven successful in Oregon. Passing this bill would undermine the ODFW's authority and expertise, setting a dangerous precedent for unnecessary interference in wildlife management.

I urge you to reject HB 3932 and allow the ODFW Commission to continue its vital work in managing Oregon's wildlife with professionalism and scientific integrity.