



March 25, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3932

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3932. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, public interest organization of about 950 members. Its offices are located in Bend, Oregon. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for the preservation of natural resources in Central Oregon for over 30 years.

LandWatch supports HB 3932. As our communities confront the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is imperative that we update and strengthen our management frameworks to better incorporate natural solutions that restore and preserve the functions and processes of our ecosystems.

The United Nations Convention on Biodiversity has defined ecological restoration as:

the process of managing or assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed as a means of sustaining ecosystem resilience and conserving biodiversity. Degradation is characterized by a decline or loss of biodiversity or ecosystem functions. Degradation and restoration are context-specific and refer to both the state of ecosystems and to ecosystem processes.¹

Oregon’s water quality is a pressing environmental concern. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has surveyed only 46% of our waterways, and of those surveyed, nearly two-thirds are classified as “impaired.” This designation is based on federal recommendations from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act.

It is well-documented that beavers play a critical role in scaling ecological restoration efforts, particularly in improving water quality. House Bill 3932 represents a practical and necessary step forward. By prohibiting the trapping of beavers on waterways that are classified as impaired on

¹ [Ecosystem restoration: short-term action plan \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/short-term-action-plan/)





2843 NW Lolo Drive., Ste. 200 | Bend, OR 97703
Phone (541) 647-2930
www.colw.org

public lands by DEQ, this bill will enhance our ability to address water quality concerns and advance ecological restoration efforts on public lands.

LandWatch supports HB 3932

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jeremy Austin
Wild Lands & Water Program Director
Central Oregon LandWatch
2843 NW Lolo Dr. Ste 200
Bend, OR 97703 | jeremy@colw.org



We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future