

Submitter: Charlotte Maloney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I am a 75 year old retired occupational therapist, who is very concerned with protecting the natural environment for future generations. Because water quality determines the health of every community, I support this HB 3932.

As I understand it, more than two-thirds of surveyed waterways in Oregon (106,390 miles) are currently classified as "impaired." DEQ deems waters impaired based on certain criteria including water temperature, sedimentation, level of dissolved oxygen, etc. I understand that DEQ lacks resources to develop and implement a TMDL for every stream and watershed that needs one. As a result, most streams continue to stay impaired in Oregon.

This bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are deemed impaired by DEQ. Robust scientific evidence shows that beaver dam complexes can address most of these water quality issues. And they do it for FREE! The bill does not apply to private lands and provides an off-ramp if the "impairment" designation is lifted.

Please pass this bill to the next step in legislative process to improve water quality without taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your service to our state.