

Submitter: Aiden Costello

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Hello, and thank you for your time.

I am writing to voice my support for HB 3932. Having been a veterinarian who had to treat a pregnant female beaver who was caught in a leg-hold trap placed by the Eagle Point Water District, and which developed a bone infection from which she will never regain function of her limb, I have witnessed first-hand the devastation that can result from trapping of beavers. Further, her young died while the beaver was being held in a rehabilitation facility, meaning that a generation was eliminated.

In our current times of drought and wildfire, beavers may well represent the only defense we have against this ongoing devastation of our landscape. Beavers slow the flow of creeks and rivers, recharging groundwater supplies, creating fire-resistant wetlands, preventing flooding of creeks and rivers, decreasing erosion and sedimentation of rivers and estuaries, and decreasing surface temperatures of the land. They provide essential habitat for a multitude of fish, birds, and mammals as well as food and forage. The benefits to the ecosystem by these rodents are innumerable.

The costs associated with river restoration, fire suppression, fish hatcheries, and irrigation water supply to lands costs billions. Beavers provide all of these services at no cost to the State. We should embrace the benefits these animals are ready and willing to provide, if only we will stop standing in their way, rather than continuing some antiquated "Jeremiah Johnson" fantasy.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my input.

Sincerely,

Aiden Costello