

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

As a retired manager of an urban Stormwater Management Program, I urge you to support HB 3932 to protect beavers and allow them to improve watershed health, protect water quality and help restore Oregon's impaired waterways for free. We now know the benefits of beavers as ecosystem engineers. We must allow this keystone species to continue to provide benefits to watersheds by preventing lethal removal on public lands where they live on water quality impaired waterways.

There is robust scientific evidence which demonstrates that the work of beavers can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest or hunting. Instead, this bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without being trapped out. The OR Department of Environmental Quality has already listed so many streams as water quality limited, so we need to keep this species which can improve water quality on the landscape, doing their work for free.

Please support HB 3932.