

Submitter: paul Engelmeyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

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Measure, Chair Lively, Vice-chair Gamba and Levy and Committee Members

Appointment or Topic: HB3932 - Support

I support 'HB 3932, the beaver and water quality' bill for multiple reasons. To be clear I have been engaged in watershed restoration and salmon recovery for over 25 years here on the central Oregon Coast. Our efforts have included riparian restoration as well as instream work to improve stream complexity with the goal of improving survivorship of salmon fry - our ESA listed Coho Salmon - this is just one of many ESA listed populations throughout Oregon and the region. I am sure you are well aware of the links between - beaver and salmon recovery benefits.

I have also been engaged with the MidCoast TMDL process working with DEQ and other community members. This legislation fits perfectly in our two efforts and much more. I can say recovery of our watersheds is a commitment by all - federal, state, tribal partners and community. Being an avid fishermen I got into this conservation effort to recovery coho and make sure our streams are cold and clean for salmon and for all aquatic species. I believe this legislation will lead to robust beaver populations again and thus ensure there will be significant benefits to Oregon's public lands and all communities around the state.

This bill proposes restricting beaver trapping on public lands where waterways are designated as impaired by DEQ. Water quality is a pressing environmental issue in not only Oregon but around the PNW landscape. In Oregon many streams classified as "impaired" by DEQ. HB 3932 would address this problem through a proven natural solution—beaver dams that slow water flow, filter pollutants, and improve overall water quality. They are also considered a 'Natural Climate Solution' as well.

HB 3932 is designed to protect the small number of beavers that currently exist on public lands by allowing them to persist. Robust populations of salmon at the landscape scale is my goal - and delisting salmon is a vision for many of us. And this bill ensures that we will have an aquatic engineer working with us and they will be able to contribute to healthier waterways and improve water quality without the risk of being trapped out.

Thank you for your efforts to improve watershed health with the recovery of beaver populations throughout Oregon.

Paul Engelmeyer