



## House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

### Oregon Farm Bureau Comments on HB 3932

March 26, 2025

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 6500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

OFB recognizes the potential ecological benefits of beavers for natural water storage and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. However, because of potential conflicts between beaver activity and private land uses and public and private infrastructure, we support ensuring that beaver management can continue to occur to protect agricultural lands and conservation projects from damage and ensure that flood waters do not infringe on private lands and public infrastructure.

In 2023, OFB worked with Representative Pam Marsh on an amendment to HB 3436 that recognizes the need for agricultural producers to prevent damage to crops or infrastructure. HB 3436-A ensures that farmers, ranchers, and small woodland owners can manage beavers, including taking a beaver *without* authorization from ODFW, when there is damage to or an imminent threat to infrastructure or crops.

We appreciate Representative Marsh for including provisions that address agricultural needs in HB 3932. HB 3932 prohibits the taking of beaver on specified public. Section 2(4) of the bill provides an exception for beaver management on public land that is adjacent to agricultural land or public infrastructure. This should provide a pathway for public land managers to take action to protect public infrastructure and private farmlands and structures from beaver damage and flooding when that land or infrastructure is adjacent to public land. HB 3932 should not impact the ability of farmers to manage beavers on private property when crops or infrastructure are damaged or there is an imminent threat of damage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 3932 today.