

Submitter: Judith Lienhard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: HB3932

Beaver dams improve water quality by using physical, chemical, and biological methods in two lines of defence. Initially, pollutants are removed as (1) water entering the pond slows down and again as (2) water is filtered through the dam. As rainwater flows across the landscape it can pick up a variety of pollutants from urban, industrial, and agricultural sources. Pollutants accumulate in streams where they threaten the health of ecosystems and humans. For instance, the residue left on roads by car tires is responsible for a toxic chemical capable of killing coho salmon. Although many human-engineered facilities exist to improve water quality, promoting nature-based solutions can save time, energy, and money while preserving the function and beauty of natural landscapes.