

Submitter: Steph Spencer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

The presence of beavers—and the way they engineer their environments—improves water quality, mitigates drought and wildfire impacts, replenishes ground water reserves, and fosters biodiversity. The legislature took a critical step toward recognizing that the presence of beaver benefits Oregon’s ecosystems and promoting beaver population recovery through the passage of HB 3464. But it's only by building on this foundation and advancing beaver coexistence strategies that we can achieve these benefits.

The millions spent on statewide habitat restoration efforts aimed at promoting beaver recovery will have little impact if just a couple miles downstream of the project, any existing or incoming beavers are trapped out. The benefits of these conservation efforts are undermined if the few remaining beavers in these impaired waterways are lethally removed or relocated.

Thank you for your time-