

Submitter: Rhett Lawrence

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB3932

Chair Golden and members of the committee,

I am a Portland resident with a great love for the wild animals and wild places in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 3932.

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized by DEQ as impaired waterways, and more than 106,390 miles in Oregon are currently classified as such. The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are already deemed impaired by DEQ. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address many water quality issues such as temperature, sedimentation, and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

ODFW's 2023 data showed that only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.

Thank you for considering my comments and I ask you to please pass HB 3932.