

Submitter: Jason Buselli
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I oppose HB 3932 because it threatens science-based wildlife management and undermines the conservation system that works for Oregon. ODFW's very own data shows that trapping isn't limiting beaver populations, which tells me the current approach—using non-lethal tools first and regulated harvest where needed—is effective and balanced.

Licensed beaver trappers follow strict regulations that enable the sustainable take of this species. As a licensed beaver trapper I augment my reliance on polyester clothing to keep my family warm, lessen my participation industrial farming complex by providing healthy food for my family, and I even use the leather for shoes, wallets, among other things. This is a way of life for some of your constituents and this bill removes science from how you manage resources sustainably.

What concerns me most is that this bill hijacks the decision-making process by tying it to an outdated DEQ list, rather than letting wildlife professionals make informed decisions based on up-to-date science. That's a serious step backward.

I also worry about the funding impact. As someone who values conservation, I know that over 80% of Oregon's wildlife budget comes from license and excise-tax revenues paid by hunters, anglers, and trappers. Stripping tools like regulated trapping from wildlife managers doesn't just tie their hands—it threatens the financial backbone of conservation in our state.

The current system already works. It prioritizes coexistence and non-lethal methods, but it also gives wildlife managers the flexibility to act when necessary. That kind of balanced approach is exactly what we need to support both beavers and broader ecosystem health.

HB 3932 isn't the answer. It takes authority away from experts, undermines conservation funding, and ignores a management system that's already succeeding. For the sake of responsible stewardship, I urge lawmakers to oppose this bill.