

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

In our current times of drought and wildfire, beavers may well represent the only defense we have against this ongoing devastation of our landscape. Beavers slow the flow of creeks and rivers, recharging groundwater supplies, creating fire-resistant wetlands, preventing flooding of creeks and rivers, decreasing erosion and sedimentation of rivers and estuaries, and decreasing surface temperatures of the land. They provide essential habitat for a multitude of fish, birds, and mammals as well as food and forage. The benefits to the ecosystem by these rodents are innumerable.

The costs associated with river restoration, fire suppression, fish hatcheries, and irrigation water supply to lands costs billions. Beavers provide all of these services at no cost to the State. We should embrace the benefits these animals are ready and willing to provide, if only we will stop standing in their way.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my input.