

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

Dear Chairman Jeff Golden and members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee,

For the following reasons I am writing to ask that you please vote yes in support of HB 3932.

Let the beavers do the work that they do best and at no cost to the taxpayer or to anyone else, which would be to help to naturally restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways.

Beavers are by nature ecosystem engineers. Their specialized activities such as canal-digging and dam-building, help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, and create wildlife and fish habitat all at the same time.

It has been stated that almost half of all of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality. That's over 100,000 miles of waterways! The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways but lacks the resources to do this at the scale needed. This is where beavers can help if allowed to continue to do what they have always done, if they are allowed to live to do this.

Hence, on these impaired public land waterways, by closing hunting and trapping of beavers, which if not done, could seriously harm and even kill beavers or seriously diminish their numbers, the passing of HB 3932 would allow beavers to continue to help to restore these waterways by not only protecting the lives of the beavers but also their needed numbers as well.

There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest and increasing beaver population. Instead, this bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out.

I fully support this natural, environmentally sound approach to problem solving! Thank you, beavers, for all that you do for our welfare and now a Yes vote by all of you Senators on HB 3932 can help to promote the beavers' welfare, too!

Sincerely,
Marilyn Costamagna