

Submitter: Sherry Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I am a supporter of ONDA. It is important to protect beavers on public lands first due to their natural dignity as creatures but second due to their beneficial impact on our waterways. Beaver dams help to restore damaged streams through filtration. As the water slows at the approach to these structures, it loses energy and large sediments sink to the bottom, improving clarity. Other pollutants become trapped in the sticks and structure of the dam. Ingeniously, the muddy pollutants left behind are filtered and cleaned by microbes in the soil. This entire mini ecosystem performs a vital function in a natural way.

It is not enough to leave existing dams; the creatures that built them must also be protected. They constantly maintain and shore up the structures. Without the living presence of these creatures, the waterways lose the benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sherry Smith