



5/1/2025

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

Re: Support for HB 3932

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and Committee Members,

On behalf of Oregon's watershed councils, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils ("NOWC") supports HB 3932, the Beaver and Water Security Bill.

NOWC supports the work of Oregon's community-based watershed councils through capacity building, trainings, and by providing a voice with government agencies and funders. Watershed councils are led by natural resource experts and scientists and are guided by boards led by local community members. Councils conduct voluntary conservation projects to restore and enhance the waters and lands for native species and for people.

A critical component of our state's healthy habitats is the inclusion of beaver, whose work in and along creeks assist with groundwater recharge and water quality improvement. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") designates waters as impaired based on certain criteria, including high temperature, sedimentation, and level of dissolved oxygen; there is strong and ample scientific evidence that illustrates the benefits of beaver dams on these specific water quality issues.

HB 3932 prevents beaver trapping on public lands; ODFW's 2023 data shows that only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. Therefore, HB 3932 will not have a measurable or significant impact on beaver pelt harvest, as most of this occurs on private lands.

The benefit of HB 3932 is the retention of beavers on our public lands so that they can contribute to healthy habitats through beneficial ecological functions.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 3932 to prevent beaver trapping on waterways and in watersheds categorized as impaired by the Oregon DEQ.

Thank you,

Terri Preeg Riggsby
Executive Director, NOWC