

Testimony: Oppose HB 3932 – “Relating to protecting beavers” (Keith K. Daellenbach)

3 May 2025

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildlife:

- Senator Jeff Golden, Chair, D/District 3-Ashland, [sen.jeffgolden@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.jeffgolden@oregonlegislature.gov)
- Senator Todd Nash, Vice-Chair, R/District 29-Enterprise, [sen.toddnash@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.toddnash@oregonlegislature.gov)
- Senator Fred Girod, Member, R/District 9-Stayton, [sen.fredgirod@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.fredgirod@oregonlegislature.gov)
- Senator Floyd Prozanski, Member, D/District 4-Springfield & Eugene, [sen.floydprozanski@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.floydprozanski@oregonlegislature.gov)
- Senator Kathleen Taylor, Member, D/District 21-Milwaukie, Oak Grove, SE/NE Portland, [sen.kathleentaylor@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.kathleentaylor@oregonlegislature.gov)

I oppose HB 3932, “Relating to protecting beavers” ([olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3932](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3932)) and urge you to vote “No” on HB 3932. I request to provide testimony at the 1:00 p.m. Tuesday 6 May 2025 meeting of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildlife where HB 3932 will be discussed.

This Bill is an over-reach by misinformed Legislative sponsors, the fourth such effort in five years according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)<sup>1</sup>, to limit existing and effective wildlife conservation tools, specifically trapping beavers. Unsurprisingly, over 80 percent of the nearly two dozen Legislative sponsors of HB 3932 live in urban districts that largely do not support the habitat for healthy beaver populations. These urban Legislators appear to be largely out of touch with the realities of wild ecosystems found in rural areas. Why would the State of Oregon knowingly deny decades of credible science from ODFW that show “available data indicate it (trapping and other forms of harvest) is not limiting beaver abundance”<sup>ibid. 1</sup> and countermand Oregon Statute ORS 496.012, the wildlife policy of the State of Oregon, to “maintain all species of wildlife at optimum levels”<sup>2</sup>?

I regularly canoe over a dozen rivers between the north Oregon coast and all over the Willamette Valley. Beaver are absolutely everywhere in abundance! Many of these rivers could be deemed “impaired” and, therefore, off limits to beaver trapping by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), staffed by well-meaning lawyers but ill-prepared, when it comes to directing conservation efforts, such as the professional wildlife biologists found at ODFW.

Trapping is, in fact, an effective wildlife management tool. I know firsthand, because in my younger years, as a third-generation trapper, I trapped beaver growing up in rural Benton County and I saw firsthand the effective application of trapping to control furbearing animals, including beaver, in excess of the habitat’s carrying capacity sadly leading to pathetically diseased, starving, and suffering animals and as well as depredation of agricultural crops. The biological reality is stopping trapping would have the perverse and unintended consequence of actually harming healthy beaver populations. Please take time to familiarize yourself with already existing ODFW beaver trapping rules<sup>3</sup>. These rules allow trapping of beaver with extensive additional special regulations, where trappers work directly with local ODFW biologists in sensitive areas such as salmon rearing rivers. These regulations have been working for Oregon to maintain a healthy ecosystem for nearly three decades and form the scientific backbone of a successful, cooperative conservation best practice. Make no mistake, HB 3932 seeks to end beaver trapping in Oregon thereby ending an effective management tool and a part of Oregon’s cultural heritage forever.

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<sup>1</sup> House Bill 3932, Written Testimony, Shaun Clements, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 26 March 2025.

<sup>2</sup> ORS 496.012, Wildlife Policy, [oregon.public.law/statutes/ors\\_496.012](https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_496.012).

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon.

Furthermore, it is the Oregon citizen trappers who pay for trapping licenses which actually, themselves, pay for much of the actual conservation of beavers in Oregon. Now, as an urban dweller myself, this is something I see urban citizens largely forget or are otherwise unaware of. What other citizen group directly supports conservation in Oregon with regular funding; answer: none. HB 3932 would wipe out this conservation revenue stream.

I am a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Oregon and science provides the unpinning of all I do in my career as a mechanical engineer. Please do not be a science denier and replace an effective conservation tool providing a useful revenue stream with a convoluted, bureaucratic, and unworkable new law promoting government overreach that will break the imperative of a working system of conservation. Would you please let me know if I am selected to provide testimony on May 6<sup>th</sup>? Thank you for your consideration and your "No" vote on HB 3239.

Sincerely,



Keith K. Daellenbach

Portland, Oregon (House District 43, Senate District 22)

cc:

- Governor Tina Kotek
- Representative John Lively, Chair, House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, D/District 7-Springfield, rep.johnlively@oregonlegislature.gov
- Representative Tawna Sanchez, D/District 43-N/NE Portland, rep.tawnasanchez@oregonlegislature.gov
- Senator Lew Frederick, D/District 22-N/NE Portland, sen.lewfriederick@oregonlegislature.gov
- Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us
- Shaun Clements, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, shaun.clements@odfw.oregon.gov
- Doug Nichol, President, Oregon Trappers Association, doug@tgnicholplumbing.com
- Stan Steele, Government Affairs, Oregon Trappers Association, riverrunguide@yahoo.com
- Duane Dungannon, State Coordinator, Oregon Hunters Association, dd@oregonhunters.org
- Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, leah.feldon@deq.oregon.gov