

Submitter: Cynthia Boersma
On Behalf Of: HB 3932
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Chair Golden and committee members,

I write in support of HB 3932.

Over 100,000 miles of Oregon's waterways have been classified as "in poor health" due to pollution, sedimentation, or high water temperatures. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality is required to restore these waterways, but to do so requires significant resources to design and implement plans to reduce this pollution. Fortunately, beavers can help do it for free!

HB 3932 supports watershed health and would close beaver hunting and trapping in waterways on public lands already classified as impaired so beavers in these areas are safe to do their thing (aka improve water quality and restore habitat). Note: This is not an "anti-hunting" bill as it still allows hunting of beavers on private lands. HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized by DEQ as impaired waterways. More than 106,390 miles in Oregon are currently classified as "impaired".

The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are already deemed impaired by DEQ. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address many water quality issues such as temperature, sedimentation, and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

ODFW's 2023 data showed that only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing beaver populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.

Thank you for your consideration.