



May 5, 2025

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: H.B.3932: *Prohibits a person from taking a beaver on waters or watersheds that are classified in a certain manner or on public land*

Position: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair, Golden and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife ,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation. For some background, Delta Waterfowl is a leading conservation group founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba, with its United States Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. We work to produce ducks through intensive management programs and conservation of breeding duck habitats. Delta conducts vital waterfowl research and promotes and protects the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting in North America.

House Bill 3932 is a bad bill that is a direct attack on trapping in the state of Oregon. Beaver trapping has been occurring in the state since its inception. Trapping was, in fact, one of the main motivators for early settlers to move to Oregon, since the state boasts such an excellent population of beavers and other fur-bearing mammals. Under ORS 496.012, the take of beavers through trapping has always been part of the public trust doctrine, which holds that wild animals are a publicly owned resource that can be renewed and sustainably managed. This bill directly violates that code by placing limitations on how individuals can access what is deemed a public resource.

Although Delta Waterfowl does not participate in trapping in Oregon, our organization staunchly supports it as a wildlife management tool. There is no reason to ban beaver trapping on public land in Oregon. Especially when populations of beavers throughout the state are so high. According to the National Trappers Association, ["There are more wild furbearers in the United States today than there was 100 years ago. There are no furbearing animals in the United States or Canada which are endangered or threatened by fur harvesting today."](#) This bill is simply an attack on trapping as a wildlife management tool and is not supported by science.

Trapping is a critical tool when it comes to wildlife management as a whole. In this case, if beaver trapping were to be banned or reduced, it would not only go against the standing Oregon code, but it would also have substantial detrimental effects on the environment. Beavers are an important



species with many benefits to the environment, but they must be managed. If a beaver population rises above its normal level, it can cause irreversible damage to environmental infrastructure and other species that occupy the same area. It is for that reason that beaver trapping must be maintained on public land. We look forward to working with this committee and the rest of the Senate as it works its way through the legislative process. We respectfully ask that you **OPPOSE** the bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Hoon
Manager of Government Affairs – Pacific Flyway
Delta Waterfowl Foundation