



## **WaterWatch of Oregon**

### **Protecting Natural Flows in Oregon Rivers**

#### **Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon on House Bill 3932A Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**

May 5, 2025

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and Oregon's rivers, streams and aquifers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports House Bill 3932A.

HB 3932A would prohibit commercial and recreational killing of beavers on waterways with impaired water quality that go through public land, and on public lands within 200 feet of such waterways.

WaterWatch supports HB 3932A because it would improve water quality in the impaired waterways, in part by improving flows on those waterways. As shown by numerous studies cited in the record, beavers build dams, which reduce pollutants by filtering stream flows. In addition, beaver dams create ponds that saturate floodplains, which then store water for slow release downstream later in the year when streamflows would otherwise be too low. The hydrated floodplains also create healthy streamside vegetation that shades the water and prevents it from getting too warm in the summer and fall.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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