

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932
Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3932.

This bill introduces significant complications and unintended consequences for both wildlife management and affected communities.

When beavers establish their habitats in areas where they conflict with human activities, such as infrastructure, agriculture, or private property, their presence can cause significant damage.

A one-size-fits-all approach to beaver management, as proposed in this bill, restricts the ability of local landowners, farmers, and wildlife managers to address beaver-related issues effectively. This could result in increased flooding, damage to crops, infrastructure, and valuable habitats that are essential for community resilience. The bill's exceptions for federal and state employees further complicate matters by creating an uneven approach to wildlife management, where only certain agencies would have the authority to address beaver populations, leaving others in limbo.

Also, this bill does not provide enough clarity on what constitutes "certain watersheds" or how specific watersheds would be classified. This lack of clarity could lead to confusion, inconsistent enforcement, and potential legal disputes, which would only complicate the process for everyone involved. The absence of clear, objective criteria makes it difficult for citizens, landowners, and agencies to know when and where the law applies.

Lastly, the bill risks undermining local and state efforts to engage in adaptive wildlife management. Proper wildlife management is best achieved through flexible, science-based practices tailored to specific local conditions. Prohibiting beaver management in a broad manner without considering these conditions could restrict the ability to respond to beaver-related challenges in a responsible and effective way.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider this legislation. Rather than imposing broad prohibitions, I encourage a more flexible, science-driven approach that allows for the management of beavers in a way that balances ecological protection with the practical needs of communities and landowners.