

Submitter:	Mandee Campos
On Behalf Of:	Self
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3932

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please vote yes in support of HB 3932 so we can allow beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways for FREE.

As a community scientist volunteer of four years with the Wetland Conservancy and Johnson Creek Watershed Council, I have seen firsthand the amazing and transformative ecological impact that beavers have to our environment. Studies show they mitigate the effects of climate change because their ponds retain more water during droughts (creating "banks" of water), they have the ability to create green spaces in deserts, the moisture in the ground from their wetlands protect the surrounding habitat from wildfires, they create a sanctuary for endangered species, they enrich the soil with sediments over time that makes the land rich for growing, AND their built wetlands filter and clean our water. This humble rodent, who we forget is represented in the back of our state's flag, is the mammal, second to humans, that has the most transformative impact on their surrounding environment (though for beavers, it is for the better).

There are MANY effective strategies and programs across North America proven effective in co-existing with beavers to minimize unwanted flooding on public or private property. With a little innovation of proven methods, we see that allowing beavers to do what they do best is a tremendous cost effective resource that works alongside nature.

Almost half of all of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality. That's over 100,000 miles of waterways! The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways but lacks the resources to do this at the scale needed. This is where beavers can help— they not only do it for free, but they do it better.

Passing HB 3932 would allow beavers to help restore these waterways by closing hunting and trapping of beavers on these impaired waterways on public lands. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out.

Let's step aside, and let these cute lil engineers get to work!

Sincerely,

Mandee Campos