

My voting son Connor and I strongly support this bill as we know that beavers (our University's mascot!) are a vital component for Oregon's ecological health, and can provide Oregonians with vast positive benefits, including:

- oIncreased wildfire resilience (through natural and effective firebreaks and post-fire habitat);
- oIncreased water security through wetlands and ponds storing surface and groundwater;
- oCarbon capture and storage that helps remove carbon from the atmosphere;
- oImproved drinking water quality and stream temperatures;
- oRearing habitat for multiple imperiled salmonid species.

We know that the bill encourages beaver presence on the landscape to create an atmosphere where Oregon sees more benefits from increased, and more widely-distributed beaver populations in Oregon. We are aware that the bill removes the predatory animal status for beaver, which allows Oregon's wildlife experts, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as it does for the vast majority of wildlife in Oregon, including deer, elk, black bear, wolves, raccoons, fish, and others. Positives in this bill include encouraging the use of non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage, not removing any tools from the toolbox for landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option, and returning wildlife management to Oregon's wildlife experts at ODFW, without precluding the Oregon Department of Agriculture from working with landowners to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure.