

My nine-year-old grandson and I have been researching beavers, and were motivated to write in support of this bill. Since beavers eat only plants, to classify them as predators seems inappropriate and ill-informed. This is not to minimize problems that some landowners have with beavers, but there are many ways to mitigate the damage they do and to relocate them when necessary. Below is the text of my grandson's testimony:

Beaver Law

Dear Brad Witt,

Why shouldn't beavers be considered predatory animals? Well you are about to find out! Did you know that the beaver is the state of Oregon animal? Well that is a fact. Beavers are actually helpful to us and other wildlife animals. For example, when they make dams they can make ponds, which make habitat for other wildlife. Also beavers can cut down dead trees for you. When beavers make dams it can also make the water deeper which is better for fish to run through streams allowing us to get more fish meat and for other wildlife too. Beavers help animals in so many ways and I don't think they should be considered a predatory animal. Also, beavers aren't even predators to other animals because they are herbivores and eat mostly plants and tree bark. I'm asking you to remove beavers from the list of predatory animals.

Sincerely,
Keenan McGrath.