

Chair Witt and members of the Committee:

My name is David Wiley and I reside in Sublimity, Oregon.

I am writing to state my opposition to HB 2844 relating to trapping beaver causing damage and hope to convince you to oppose it as well.

In your consideration of HB 2844 please take note of these facts:

1. The bill proposes a solution to no problem. The current and long-standing law allows a landowner or public agency (like a county road department) to quickly and directly address beaver damage; whereas the proposed bill creates a time consuming burden on the landowner before action can be taken to mitigate damage.

2. The live trapping and relocation of the beaver, as required by the bill, is not supported by science or management experience. In fact science shows relocation of live-trapped beaver to be unsuccessful the vast majority of the time. Reasons for relocation failure are many, predation by carnivores and other beavers, completion for habitat, and a human's idea of suitable beaver habitat is not coincident with a beaver's view of suitable habitat.

Here are a few scientific references refuting the efficacy of beaver relocation:

- a. Great Expectations: Deconstructing the Process Pathways Underlying Beaver-Related Restoration, CAROLINE S. NASH et al.,
- b. Evaluating landowner-based beaver relocation as a tool to restore salmon habitat, V.M. Petro, et al.
- c. Survey of Beaver-related Restoration Practices in Rangeland Streams of the Western USA, David S. Pilliod, et al.

3. Under current law and regulation there is very little to no public expenses to address beaver damage. HB 2844 increases the cost of beaver damage management through its added regulatory requirements.

4. A Fiscal Statement does not now accompany the bill and should be required before moving further..

5. HB 2844 is an unfunded mandate in that it does not provide General Fund revenue to support the administration of the increased regulatory burden proposed to be placed upon Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife which will be required to divert sportsman's license and tag fee revenue to pay the cost of increased regulation.

In plain language HB 2844 is unneeded, solves no problem and creates many. Its purported solutions to a problem that does not exist are unsupported and contradicted by the science. It will create administrative burden and increased expense on ODFW and provides no General Fund revenue compensation.

Please do not allow this HB 2844 out of committee. It is a bad piece of legislation.