

Hello Chairman and Committee members,

I am a farmer, and beaver management is critical to many farms in my area for infrastructure, preventing flooding, and maintaining roads. Just two years ago Nusom road was washed out completely due to a beaver dam that breached in a heavy rainstorm. The road was unusable for several months until it could be rebuilt by Marion Co. Public Works at a sizable expense.

Beavers can cause extensive riparian damage, their dams can block culverts, wash out critical roads such as Nusom Rd, flood farm fields, homes, and parks, and alter water systems. Farmers rely on the ability to privately trap beavers to avoid the significant damage that beavers can cause to an operation.

Beavers are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection. Additionally, the bill proposes to remove the classification of beavers as a rodent. Beavers are taxonomically classified as rodents, and should be correctly identified in statute.

The available non-lethal deterrence doesn't work well in my experience, and relocating beavers can actually transfer disease.

I need to maintain the ability to manage predatory species as needed to protect my farm - the state should not eliminate tools, especially with no sound scientific basis to do so. I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2844.

Sincerely,

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