

I am writing in support of HB 2844. This bill is a win-win for the beavers and the people of Oregon. Anything we, as citizens, can do to enhance the ecological health of Oregon is very important. I am not an expert in the field, but I have seen firsthand what the presence of beaver in a stream can do. The ponds created by beaver dams store surface and groundwater which in turn create more wetland and encourage the growth of streamside plants. Streamside trees and plants help keep the water cool. Deep, cool water is great for fish populations. A healthy stream surrounded by wetlands can also act as an effective firebreak - more and more important given our current drought situation. Removing beaver from predatory animal status would be a positive step towards enhancing the health of streams in Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.