

Chair Witt and committee members;

I farm/ranch in Klamath County and am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 2844. It is critical that we have the ability to control these animals without bureaucratic red tape. I have seen extensive damage to large tracts of forest due to flooding caused by beaver dams, Aspen groves mowed down, but also deep trenches dug into river banks that are dangerous to humans and other animals. Another issue that is important to understand is that Beavers can be a detriment to fish by blocking passage and if they can get through, more susceptible to predation while attempting to pass through the beaver structure.

Relocating Beaver to another location not only creates a problem for someone else but can introduce disease there also.

The current rules and regulations around beaver have worked well and don't need these changes. We only trap beaver if they are causing excessive damage to the landscape and are threatening crops and livestock. In conclusion, I urge you to oppose 2844.

Thank you.

Lyndon Kerns