

I am a farmer, and beaver management is critical to maintaining my farm infrastructure, preventing flooding, and maintaining roads. Beavers can cause extensive riparian damage, their dams can block culverts, wash out critical roads, flood farm fields, homes, and parks, and alter water systems. For example, five years ago beavers cut down over 40 of our hazelnut trees and built a dam so large that it flooded our field and disrupted a home owners septic system. I rely on the ability to privately trap beavers to avoid the significant damage that beavers can cause to my operation. I do not trap beavers for sport - I only take them when they are causing damage to my property or impacting my farm.

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.

As a landowner, I need to address a beaver issue that is jeopardizing my property immediately. I cannot afford to be required to get a permit from ODFW (which I know environmental groups would advocate should eventually not be issued). Further, 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.