

To the honorable members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am writing in support of HB2844.

For the past few years I have been volunteering to do habitat restoration with the Oregon Natural Desert Assn., primarily involving riparian restoration. We laboriously plant fledgling trees, protect them with cardboard, cage them so they have a chance to thrive, and hope. We are doing this work to restore conditions for salmon spawning, reestablish the thin green line of desert streams, and to encourage beaver to do their good work. It's a lot of work and a lot of failure is involved, because stream systems are very dynamic. But our dream is to bring back the beaver, because, unlike us, they work all the time, and their efforts do the badly needed work of restoration that we cannot do ourselves.

The list of their ecological benefits includes increasing wildfire resilience, increased cold water stream storage, water quality and carbon capture, and to create rearing habitat for imperiled salmonid species.

It seems to me that this bill is well-crafted to protect private property rights while managing beaver as the state does other wildlife such as deer, elk, bear, etc.

Time spent along the streams of eastern Oregon convinces me that the work that beaver do is vital to protect and enhance Oregon's vital natural resources; let's encourage and allow and celebrate their work!

Thanks for your time.