

I submit this testimony in support of HB 2844.

I support HB 2844 because of its likely beneficial impact on 3 issues I care about- fire, water and carbon.

1. I became interested in new approaches to wildland firefighting with work I was doing across 2014 and 2015. This URL links to a multi-agency informational session hosted by the USFS, Sierra National Forest unit, February 2020. Aply titled "Smokey the Beaver: can beaver dams help protect riparian vegetation during wildfire?" I'd commend the entertaining overview at 12'05", and the satellite imagery at 16' and 21'15". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39CW02Qk7TM>. Of interest to Oregon is that historic beaver habitat overlaps with most of the big conflagration areas of Oregon of the last few years, both east and west of the Cascades. It would seem that anything that increases wildfire resilience such as the practical suggestions of HB 2844 is in the interest of all Oregonians.

2. I travel all over Oregon, and there is hardly a soul I meet from the NE to the SW of this state who is not extremely interested in water security. Current land custodians from ranchers to tribal members all recall their fathers and grandfathers talking about year-round water, water that is now seasonal (if at all) coursing through highly incised waterways. There is a rapidly accumulating body of knowledge that shows a role for beaver in perennializing water, with ratios of up to 5 gallons held underground for every gallon impounded above ground. Raised stream beds and water tables benefit everyone.

3. We're all living with an over-carbonized atmosphere; the creation of carbon sinks is important, and plants/wetlands are grossly underappreciated and poorly factored into economic and other assessments. Wet landscapes - even small beaver-created wetlands are important - give us the most fabulously rich and productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs (both of which I have seen described as wetlands!), and host to every kingdom of life. Oregon shares the view that beavers are important for climate change resilience- <https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/promo.cfm?id=177175812>. The interesting observation from the OFWO is beaver are "one of the most cost effective and sustainable solutions for ecological restoration and climate change resilience".

By removing predatory animal status from beaver, we can put another effective lever into the hands of the experts at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, all without precluding the Oregon Department of Agriculture from working with landowners to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure.

Sincerely
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