

I support HB 2844 because I support healthy streams, watersheds, fish and wildlife in Oregon, and well managed beaver population is an essential part of achieving those goals. HB 2844 will provide well thought out changes to Oregon law, allowing the Department of Fish & Wildlife to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon, not just on public lands. It encourages best management practices, no longer applying the obsolete 19th century "predator" status to beaver.

Prior to the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest beavers were widespread throughout Oregon and the entire northwest. Their dams and resulting riparian areas contributed to perennial streamflows especially in dryer Eastern Oregon. They were a vital part of a healthy ecology supporting fish and many wildlife species. Tragically beaver were nearly trapped to extinction in our state by the beginning of the last century.

Now we need beaver back to contribute to the rebuilding of riparian vegetation, wetlands and perennial stream flows, improving water quality, restoring aquifers, helping to reduce wildfires, and supporting fish runs and encouraging wildlife diversity.

There are proven tools available to manage impact beavers may have on agriculture and infrastructure, without resorting to killing the beaver. Where these proven tools are found to be insufficient, beaver can be trapped and relocated. In extreme cases, HB 2843 would still permit killing the beaver.

Thanks you for your consideration of my testimony.

Larry Hill