

Submitter: Benjamin Chase

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Greetings House Committee,

I am a seventh generation farmer in the South Willamette Valley. My family has been farming here for the last hundred and fifty years. I love our state and work hard to protect and preserve its beauty. I oppose HB 3464.

Our hazelnut orchard consists of thousands of young trees. They are all susceptible to beaver damage. I have personally lost several trees to beavers in a matter of days.

The price of diesel, labor and fertilizer last year were higher than ever, and yet we received record low prices for our product. Our livelihood is already threatened to the point that our farm cannot sustain itself. Adding the potential for further operational costs via permits or beaver deterrents such as tree protection would put additional strain on an already strained small farm. This is just one more step in driving agriculture, specifically small farmers, out of Oregon.

The majority of wildfires in Oregon occur on state and federally owned land. This bill has the potential to regulate farms with absolutely no risk of wildfire, making them susceptible to unmitigated property damage from beaver. If this bill passes, it would give unelected officials at ODFW undue authority to limit or prevent farmers and landowners from protecting their property and livelihoods. If you truly care about wildfire prevention and climate change, please put effort into better management of our forests, not into strangling hard working Oregonians.

Thank you for your time.