



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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March 20, 2023

Chair Pam Marsh
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of HB 3464

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Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I am writing to offer our strong support for House Bill 3464 (HB 3464) that would remove the “predatory animal” and “rodent” classification for beaver and direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to adopt rules relating to the taking of beavers as well as publish an annual report available to the public.

The science and understanding of beavers as ecosystem engineers has just begun to expand into practical application and we have only just begun to examine and recognize the potential beneficial role that they can play in watersheds and in our communities in general.

Few, if any, wildlife species have such a profound influence on landscape form as well as through the processes they set in motion that create and support entire biotic communities. When protections are afforded to beaver, they in turn directly increase and enhance wetlands and biological diversity. With proper management and stewardship, beaver wetlands represent sustainable environmental resources for many rare and sensitive plants and animals and can be formative in restoring riparian corridors and building resilient ecological systems which help to mitigate against the effects of land-use changes, increased impervious surfaces, and the effects of climate change.

Increased emphasis on non-lethal management of beaver can also be beneficial even in urbanized environments, promoting improved water quality, aquatic habitat, and floodplain habitat as well as producing unique opportunities for environmental education, recreation and enjoyment.

This legislation is an important step in regard to the removal of the classification of a predatory animal and for putting a regulatory process in place for removing beaver that may be in conflict with landowners. We hope that this can also be a step forward in raising awareness of the importance of beaver in our communities as well as implementing lasting, humane, and cost-effective methods of living with beaver and the wetlands that they create.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon Senior State Director
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