

Submitter: Klaus Hoehna

On Behalf Of: Self

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Thank you for allowing me to submit tests. I do not support HB3464. For 10 years on our Grant County farm I irrigated our alfalfa and pasture land from diverted water along an 1.5 mile long irrigation ditch where we had senior water rights. During irrigation season my water pump would shut off because of lack of water due to beaver dams. I was forced to walk the ditch to find the dams (usually 2 or 3) and physically tear them out. Mr Beaver was hard at work and would manage to construct new dams usually 2 to 3 days later causing water flow to cease and my pump shutting off. This occurred ALL Spring and summer each year! We typically would call the county trapper who would trap and move the beavers to different areas. However, trapper's were often too busy to come out and it caused me a great deal of time to tear out dams. It also caused water to backup upstream onto my neighbors newly seeded alfalfa field, flooding about 2 acres destroying the seed bed. Having my pump being shut off numerous times (40 times per year) due to lack of water wasn't good for it. Tearing out dams about 40 days per year at 3 hrs per day cost me about 120 manhours of unnecessary work each year. I am strongly in favor of keeping the current rules in place so beaver damage can be better managed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.