

Submitter: Carol Van Strum

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Since 1974 I have owned and lived on a small farm in the Oregon Coast Range, growing cherries and heritage apples. During the 1970s and '80s, there were plentiful beavers in the river that borders our farm. On occasion beavers would chew on newly planted orchard trees, a habit easily cured with chicken wire around each tree. The worst problem we had with beavers was with trappers who set appalling "drowning traps" that indiscriminately caught fawns and pet dogs as well as beavers; we had to patrol the river constantly to remove those traps. Today there are few beavers left on our river, but I'm hopeful they can be plentiful again. They are an integral part of our riparian ecosystem and NOT a pest by any definition of the word. Please do everything you can to help pass this simple bill, HB3464, that will have a profound benefit to Riparian Ecosystems across our State, by removing the State Animal from a list of Pests and allowing ODFW to manage and protect this keystone species, so vital to creating and restoring native fish habitat and water security. I hope to live long enough to see both beavers and salmon again thriving in our river.