

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

I am a farmer in the Willamette Valley and ask you to oppose HB 3464. Beaver management is critical to maintaining our farm infrastructure, preventing flooding, and maintaining roads.

On our farm beaver dams have blocked culverts causing erosion under our roads and beavers have destroyed trees that were planted as part of a mitigation project. My farmer neighbors have had parts of orchards disappear and farm fields that were flooded and were unable to be farmed/planted.

Farmers and ranchers need to have the ability to limit the significant damage that beavers can cause to our operations. Available, non-lethal, methods of deterrence do not work well – this includes relocating beavers which can spread disease.

We do not trap beavers for sport; they are only privately trapped when they are causing damage to our property or impacting our farms. If there is a beaver issue that is jeopardizing our property (and livelihood), we need to be able to address it immediately. We shouldn't be required to get a permit from ODFW for each take of beaver as well as be required to report the take.

Beavers are taxonomically classified as a rodent and should be correctly identified as such in statute. They are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection.

We need to maintain the ability to manage predatory species as needed to protect our farms and property - the state should not eliminate tools, especially with no sound scientific basis to do so. I urge you to OPPOSE HB 3464.