

March 22, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3464.

As farmers and landowner in the Little Applegate Valley of southwest Oregon, we believe that this bill provides a more sensible legal classification for beaver, while promoting the use of non-lethal conflict mitigation methods and still allowing lethal management on a case-by-case basis.

Our farm, Wolf Gulch, has been in operation since 1999, and has been certified organic since 2005. We make our living growing vegetable and flower seeds that are sold to seed companies across the country.

As certified organic farmers, we believe that farming is most sustainable when conducted in a healthy eco-system. Beavers are part of such an eco-system. As farmers, we are used to protecting our crops and livestock from deer, cougars, predacious insects, and many other animals and organisms. We believe that beavers deserve protection, and it is our jobs, as farmers, to protect our crops.

Crucial keystone role and benefits of beaver on the landscape are well documented and increasingly well-known wildlife and fish habitat, water security, wildfire breaks, flood and drought mitigation, evapotranspiration needed for a healthy water cycle, aquifer recharge, water filtration, etc. These are all issues that are top priority for all

Oregonians, and they cannot be adequately addressed without a restoration of the population of this keystone species throughout our watersheds.

We strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB 3464. Thank you for your time and service.

Maud and Tom Powell

Wolf Gulch Farm