

Submitter: Brenda Frketich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Good afternoon Chair Marsh and members of the committee.

My name is Brenda Frketich and I farm in the St. Paul area. I am opposed to HB 3464.

Our farm has seasonal ditches that run through much of our property with culverts to access our fields. Beavers throughout this ditch have moved in numerous times and within a few nights can plug culverts, once it's plugged the damage of water running over and around those crossings can and has cost us thousands of dollars. We need to be able to self-regulate beavers quickly and effectively, not sit around waiting for permits or someone to come tell us how to control these predators.

In the Willamette valley here we have thousands of acres of filbert trees that have been planted in the last decade. These trees when up against a beaver don't stand a chance and are quickly made into supplies for their dams. The most frustrating part is that these trees are in the ground for about 4 years before you ever even get a crop to harvest from them, so if one is cut down by a beaver in year 3 not only do you lose a tree, you lose years of investment, and years of harvest down the road. As I said before beavers can work fast and we need to be able to also react fast.

Why are we trying to remove all control from the people and allowing the commission to have full control? I have read in the bill nothing that says that there will be year round permitting. I have read nothing that says what is considered "damage" or "potential damage". All I read was that the ODFW commission has full reign to make all these decisions. Which is incredibly scary to me considering the ODFW Commission is an appointed commission, not elected.

Beavers are not endangered, they are not a population that is going downhill, they are abundant. Look at how many people are here today testifying about how many beavers they have that they need to manage. They are a predator to our crops and our farm infrastructure. We need to be able to manage them in a timely and cost effective manner on our private property, not just left to the hands of the ODFW commission. Thank you for your time.