

Submitter: Thomas Leaton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Hello,

My name is Thomas Leaton and I own and operate Sitka Springs Farm on the central Oregon Coast. I have been in business since 2009 running a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), selling our produce at farmers markets and restaurants. Our farm borders important wetland habitat for salmon on the Yaquina watershed. Beavers are integral to the health and vitality of native coho and our creek is important rearing habitat for the coho. We have been working with our local Soil and Water district, as well as ODFW, on restoring the creek and wetland to a thriving habitat for the last 12 years. Prior agricultural practices on our land included trapping beavers, straightening creeks, and removing trees and plants along the stream banks to allow cattle access. Our project is bringing the beaver back and with it healthy salmon rearing habitat.

We have been able to operate our farm without trapping beaver, by using exclusion fencing very successfully.

As a small farm, being able to market ourselves as salmon safe gives us a competitive edge in the market. Working with the beavers has provided far more benefits for our small business, than eradicating them ever would.

Please support this important bill. Thank you for your consideration and time,
Thomas Leaton