



APPLEGATE PARTNERSHIP, INC.

dba Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council

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a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization, EIN# 93-1151372

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RE: HB 3464

Representative Marsh and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

As watershed stewards and advocates, we are writing in support of HB3464 which correctly removes the beaver from the miscategorized list of predators. There is historic context in which classifying an animal that is a valuable “resource” as a predator was justified in the minds of early lawmakers in the beaver state. However, there is no definition of predator that fits the habits of this herbivore prey animal. A beaver is not a hunter, nor does it eat any type of flesh—be it insect, fish or any other animal. This rodent exists on tubers, shoots, buds, foliage, roots, stems, barks, twigs and other plant substances.

It makes perfect sense for *Castor canadensis* to be defined as a fur-bearing mammal.

Beavers are critical to our drying landscapes and watersheds. The plants and animals of the northern hemisphere have co-evolved with beaver in this keystone management role for thousands of years. Land under beaver management has value to society as an evolved and resilient ecosystem that sequesters carbon, stores water, reduces the risk from wildfire, and facilitates habitat. In short, beavers help restore complex natural systems and the benefits we are seeking will follow. This bill is the first step in the critical work that must be done to combat the crisis we face.

We recommend that HB3464 be amended to change the classification of the beaver (*Castor canadensis*) to fur-bearing mammal.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Becker

Board Chair, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council