

I am writing to urge you to support [House Bill 3464](#). As a fifth generation Oregonian and daughter of a Willamette Valley farmer I understand the long-standing history of Beaver and people in this state - in every sense of that statement. As a scientist and environmental conservationist by profession, I also understand the ever changing conditions us Oregonians face in the wake of climate chaos and how our ecosystems and biodiversity are doomed without smart and steadfast adaptations.

What gives me hope is the support of science-based bills like these that have unanimous bi-partisan support, showing that our divided political structure can come together on important legislation and find common ground on important issues, which is greatly needed in these swiftly changing times. This legislation is a step in the right direction towards seeing Beaver as the resilient, keystone species they are - aside from just Oregon's beloved mascot, or worse, vermin.

During my master's of environmental science degree, I studied the relationship of beaver and climate resiliency and their unprecedented role in ecosystem wellness. Hopefully you are aware of just how truly vital they are in building our climate resiliency and creating habitats for greater biodiversity.

Another hopeful addition to this legislation is that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will finally be able to collect sufficient data on just how many beaver we have across the state and how many are being killed. As it is right now, there are no processes in place to establish even a baseline of how many beaver live in the state or how many are arbitrarily or otherwise killed, including the kits. Considering all that beaver offer to our native ecosystems, having this data and understanding of their role in the "beaver state's" future is critical for wildlife and water management as a whole.

I whole-heartedly believe delisting beaver as a "predator" and continuing to come together to help endemic species live in their native, rightful places while supporting us humans is the symbiotic relationship we so desperately need. I am grateful that representatives across Oregon are seeing the benefits of rekindling these more-than-human relationships to the natural world and I hope your support is realized through your vote in favor of this bill.

With gratitude,

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