



PROJECT BEAVER

May 2, 2023

Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Chair Representative Golden

RE: House bill 3464

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

As an organization that works to empower humans to partner with beavers and value their works, we've helped many private landowners coexistence with beavers on their land. The landowners we've worked with are often 1) frustrated with the lack of support from Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 2) looking for alternatives to trapping (either lethal or relocation), and 3) committed to stewardship of their land and concerned with how beavers will impact the health of that land. Landowners are often unaware of the benefits that beavers can bring to their property and surprised that beavers are good for the health of their land and its waterways. As we've talked with these folks, many cite the treatment of beavers as a pest species (predator) by the State of Oregon as the primary reason they thought the beavers on their land should be trapped out.

HB 3464 will change how "The Beaver State" legally designates this important ecosystem engineer to be more in-line with reality (beaver are vegans after all). By moving beaver management on private lands under the purview of our state's wildlife agency, this bill will create a nexus for landowners to receive better support from ODFW on voluntary coexistence solutions.

As amended, this bill received bipartisan, unanimous support in the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment. Thank you for considering this important legislation. Please support HB 3464.

Sincerely,

Jakob Shockey

Executive Director, Project Beaver

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