

Submitter: Margot Monti
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: HB3464

Beavers are a key natural climate solution. This keystone species helps slow waterways, maintaining wet streamside habitats. Studies have shown beavers help make habitat more resilient in the face of climate-driven wildfires and drought. Furthermore, they provide key habitats to enhance biodiversity on many scales of magnitude. As "The Beaver State" which even displays the animal on our flag, it is irresponsible for our state legislation to treat it as a 'predator'. Not only is this biologically inaccurate, it is a huge missed opportunity for Oregon to set the example for the rest of the country. We should be putting a huge effort into public education about all of the benefits beavers provide to humans and habitats alike: they restore waterways to historic braided floodplains that hold groundwater, reduce drought, and offer significant fire resistance to mitigate climate change. They support healthy forest/riparian ecosystems. They can help restore salmon and other anadromous species' historic numbers. It is crucial to re-educate the general public that the benefits of having beavers on their land and learning how to coexist with them will far outweigh the 'inconveniences' they can cause when their importance is not given top priority. Please pass HB 3464 and then let's all work hard to truly make ourselves appreciated as The Beaver State. Thank you.