

I am writing as a landowner in support of **HB 4014** which would educate landowners about the positive role that beavers can play and provide funding for non-lethal methods of living with beaver in our state. We own 200 acres of timber land in Lincoln County and 32 acres in Lane County. The Lincoln County land has a creek and pond which is protected from development. We know that beaver have lived here in the past and, frankly, would be happy for their return. Similarly, the Lane County property shows evidence of prior beaver occupancy, and the former pond is now defunct without beaver activity. Our experience with beavers has been quite positive. The beavers help to create a diversity of trees and habitat in the riparian area which is supportive of several different kinds of plants and wildlife. The beaver pond helps to store water and release it slowly. The wetland area reduces wildfire danger for us and our neighbors. We also have concerns about climate change and drought negatively impacting this forestland and know that beavers can be helpful in decreasing these impacts.

We would greatly appreciate the ability to communicate with ODFW on non-lethal co-existence measures.

Our downstream neighbors have a pond in their backyard that they greatly value. It would likely run dry without the slow release of water due to beaver activity. Yet, their knowledge of beavers is based on old and erroneous information that beavers are problematic. We welcome the opportunity for education about the beneficial aspects of beaver activity as well as how to co-exist with beavers. We believe better management will result from this opportunity and provide benefits to all Oregonians.

Please support HB 4014. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Champer