



RE: Testimony in support of HB 4014: *“Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund”*

Chairwoman Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 4014. The Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) is a non-profit dedicated to protecting, defending, and restoring wild nature in southwest Oregon and northwest California. We represent approximately 10,000 members and supporters across Oregon and beyond. Rogue Riverkeeper is a program of KS Wild that fights for clean water protections in the Rogue River watershed to ensure drinking water, aquatic habitat, and recreation opportunities. We urge you to pass HB 4014 that will provide much needed funding to private landowners to encourage holistic management of beaver in the state of Oregon. Beavers contribute to vital ground water retention, flood resilience, healthy riparian habitat, and a reduction of wildfire severity. Utilizing the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s existing Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund to provide funding to support beaver coexistence strategies will be an effective and efficient means to allow the benefits provided by beavers to be accessible to private landowners and thus, Oregon citizens as a whole.

Southern Oregon continues to be impacted by severe drought conditions and will benefit from the many ecosystem services that beaver can provide. Many native fish species, including federally listed coho salmon thrive in cold water streams and river habitats of the Rogue basin. These ecosystems are enhanced by the presence of beavers.

The passing of HB 4014 will provide options to private land managers interested in alternative beaver management practices to increase the likelihood of beavers remaining present and functioning on the landscape. Projects eligible for funding through this bill include:

- Tree protection tools;
- Flood prevention devices;

- Culvert and infrastructure protection systems;
- Crop protection strategies;
- Landowner education and outreach; and
- Training related to mitigating the effects of beavers;

We urge your strong support of HB 4014.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dotson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Michael Dotson
KS Wild Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Oyung". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a prominent loop at the end.

Frances Oyung
Rogue Riverkeeper Program Manager