



Applegate Partnership and  
Watershed Council  
PO Box 899  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

February 4, 2024

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Chair Representative Marsh

RE: House Bill 4014

Chair March, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

In this letter, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council is providing written support of HB 4014. Our mission is to promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education, and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies, and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being.

This valley in Southern Oregon is an important habitat for Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and other species. Beavers have co-evolved with these threatened and endangered species for millions of years. We work with landowners to improve the fish habitat and water resiliency on their land. The single most important thing the landowners could do is allow beavers that move in to stay and build small wetlands along our waterways. The best way to do this is to have the resources to help them with coexistence tools.

HB 4014 would allow us and other watershed councils to easily support our community in building coexistence with these important ecosystem engineers. While we can direct landowners to educational materials, cost and implementation is a huge barrier. HB 4014 can become a significant way to provide assistance in turning problem beavers into an asset.

HB 4014 would give us a new way to assist our community and build drought-resistant streams. We respectfully ask you to move HB 4014 forward.

Sincerely,

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council