

House Bill 4014 Living with Beaver

Feb. 4, 2024

To whom it may concern

I live in rural Eastern Oregon owning 1 and 1/2 acres on the edge of the urban growth boundary of the city of Halfway, surrounded by agricultural land on 3 sides. Also I serve on our watershed council as a volunteer. I am speaking as a private citizen.

Witnessing a winter like I have never seen here before (resident for 40 years) with minimal snow accumulation and very little freezing, (relatively speaking) and precipitation coming as rain, I have to say **things have changed.**

Living on a constructed ditch that borders 2 sides of my property before it heads right to the downtown core of Halfway, in these new weather conditions gives one pause for thought. The water this constructed feature carries rose higher than I have ever seen in the 28 years I have lived at this site. It usually is dewatered for part of the agriculture season even though it uses a natural creek channel for part of the delivery system.

I am fully supportive of the Landowners Living with Beaver funding HB 4014. It couldn't come at a better time. Looking toward the future with warmer winters, snow pack replaced by rain, hotter summers: mother earth needs some help from the true engineers, our own keystone specie, the beaver. This funding is greatly needed to mitigate the conflicts that no doubt will arise with beaver habitat improvements/reintroductions that affect land occupied by humans. Please pass this bill. We need the beaver.

Thank you
Margaret Durner, Halfway, Oregon

