



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 3143
House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

February 4, 2025

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization working in Oregon's political process and elections to promote the humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 3143

HB 3143 would create and fund a program of grants to entities working with landowners to "mitigate the effects of beavers" on private land. The list of potential projects would include tree protection tools, flood prevention devices, and culvert protection systems, showing an intent to mitigate the effects of beavers without killing the beavers.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 3143 because it would likely lead to more humane treatment of beavers. Mitigating the effects of beavers in nonlethal ways also would be good for other wild animals and fish because many beavers build dams that help create healthier watersheds. The dams create ponds that saturate floodplains, which then store water for slow release downstream later in the year when streamflows would otherwise be too low. The hydrated floodplain also creates healthy streamside vegetation that shades the water and prevents it from getting too warm in the summer and fall.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director