

Submitter: Joseph Vaile

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I support HB 3932, the beaver and water quality bill, because it offers significant benefits to Oregon's public lands, as well as the fish, wildlife, and human communities that rely on them.

This bill proposes restricting beaver trapping on public lands where waterways are designated as impaired by DEQ. Water quality is a pressing environmental issue in Oregon. Many streams classified as "impaired" by DEQ. HB 3932 would address this problem through a proven natural solution—beaver dams that slow water flow, filter pollutants, and improve overall water quality.

According to ODFW, beaver harvest from public lands accounts for just 4% of the reported total. HB 3932 is designed to protect the small number of beavers that currently exist on public lands. By allowing them to persist, the bill ensures they can contribute to healthier waterways and improve water quality without the risk of being trapped out.