

Submitter: Marie Wakefield
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams designated as category 4 or category 5 by DEQ's water quality standards. Both indicate impaired waterways. The bill also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act

DEQ deems waters impaired based on certain criteria such as high temperature, sedimentation, and level of dissolved oxygen, to name a few.

The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are deemed impaired by DEQ. Strong scientific evidence suggests beaver dam complexes can address most of these water quality issues.

ODFW's 2023 data showed only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.