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

Despite the Pacific Northwest's rainy reputation, Oregon's water faces a major challenge today. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has surveyed data for less than half of the state, but more than two-thirds all surveyed streams and rivers qualify as impaired.

But what if there was a free recovery tool readily available to support better watershed management? Enter everyone's favorite semi-aquatic rodent: the American beaver (honorable mention to nutria). This species' engineering skills create dam complexes and floodplains with the capacity to address four of the top five factors in waterway health...and they do it all pro bono.

It's time to embrace their restoration skills more than ever by passing HB3932, which proposes closing beaver hunting and trapping in impaired waterways on public lands. By protecting these critical zones, HB3932 provides beaver populations with the time and space to improve water quality on public lands without getting trapped out.