

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

Dear Chris Gorsek, Pam Marsh, Senator Jeff Golden, and Oregon law makers

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on beaver trapping in Oregon. As an experienced trapper, I can assure you that this ban would not only be detrimental to my livelihood but would also have far-reaching negative impacts on our communities, ecosystems, and the very fabric of our state's wildlife management practices.

Trapping is a Critical Management Tool Beavers are a keystone species, and their populations must be managed responsibly to prevent ecological imbalances. When beaver numbers swell unchecked, they cause extensive damage to agricultural lands, disrupt infrastructure, and threaten the habitats of other wildlife. Trapping is not merely a hobby for many of us; it is a necessary practice that allows us to maintain harmony between human needs and wildlife conservation. By banning trapping, you are effectively ignoring a vital tool that ensures our environments remain balanced and healthy.

Economic Consequences- .The economic fallout from this ban would be severe. Trapping is a source of income for countless families in Oregon, including mine. The ban would put many out of work, jeopardizing livelihoods and local economies that depend on trapping-related activities. The businesses that supply trapping gear and services would also suffer, leading to a ripple effect that could devastate entire communities. This is not just a personal issue; it's a community crisis waiting to happen.

Cultural Significance-Trapping is embedded in Oregon's cultural heritage. For generations, families have passed down the skills and knowledge of trapping, creating a strong sense of identity and pride in our way of life. This proposed ban is an attack on our traditions, undermining the values that have shaped our communities for years. It is imperative that we preserve our cultural practices rather than erase them.

Lack of Justification- There is no substantial evidence to support the claim that banning trapping will lead to healthier ecosystems. In fact, studies have shown that responsible trapping can contribute to biodiversity and the overall health of wildlife populations. By enacting this ban, you risk pushing beaver populations to unsustainable levels, which could lead to far more significant ecological problems

down the line.

Call to Action- I urge you to reconsider this misguided proposal and engage with our community to develop a more balanced and effective approach to wildlife management. Rather than imposing blanket restrictions, let's work together to create regulations that promote responsible trapping practices while ensuring the welfare of our ecosystems. It is time to listen to the voices of those who live and work in these environments. We are not against conservation; we are advocates for a sustainable approach that respects both wildlife and the livelihoods of Oregonians. I look forward to your prompt response and hope for an opportunity to discuss this urgent matter further.

Personal testimony- This is always been a part of our history, and way of life. It has been around the beginning of this country