



Humane World for Animals™

Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States

March 23, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3932

Dear Chair John Lively, Vice Chairs Mark Gamba and Bobby Levy and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Humane World for Animals (formerly HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I write to express our strong support for HB 3932, the Beavers and Water Quality Bill, which would allow natural processes to occur that are critical to the restoration of Oregon's impaired waterways.

Oregon's waterways currently suffer from poor water quality due to high temperatures, sedimentation, and toxins. Beavers, as ecosystem engineers, play a vital role in addressing these issues. Their activities help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, and expand riparian habitats for wildlife.

Scientific evidence shows that beaver dam complexes can effectively address most water quality issues, while providing these ecosystem services for free.

HB 3932 proposes closing beaver hunting and trapping on public lands classified as impaired by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This will allow beavers to perform their ecosystem functions without being trapped out, while working to restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways.

It is important to note that the bill makes accommodations for when stream quality is restored as well as in cases where damage is occurring above the tolerance threshold on adjacent private lands and does not apply to private lands. With proper management emphasizing non-lethal conflict mitigation techniques and stewardship, beavers can thrive and create resilient ecological systems that support rare and sensitive plants and animals, restore riparian corridors, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

HB 3932 will enable beavers to help restore Oregon's waterways and improve water quality. It is for this reason, as well as those listed above, that we strongly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon State Director