

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

I urge you to support HB 3932.

Beavers are a keystone member of our waterways. They are cheap partners who on their own solve many of our climate problems. They improve fish and wildlife habitat, recharge groundwater sources, create carbon capture sinks, cool streams, improve the chances for other species to find food, water and shelter, and a host of other benefits.

You know the benefits that beaver waterways provide connected with wildfires. The fire-resistant ponds and wetlands they create prevent wildfires, shelter wildlife in native fires, and protect the ecosystem around them. These wetlands also help to restore and protect the affected areas after a fire.

As our climate changes in the Pacific Northwest, beavers help reduce those impacts. They cool the water and improve water quality, increasing biodiversity and providing habitat for salmon and other struggling fish populations.

We should be doing what we can to encourage and help the beaver, not trapping them. Science makes it clear that beavers are an integral part of a healthy plan. Please help this bill over the finish line.

Thank you.