

Submitter: Scott R Bowler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on what I feel is a vital bill that can help heal and enhance many of our riparian areas and wildlands. I have been a science educator since 1980, and since my retirement in 2015, have been working as a volunteer in wilderness stewardship. I have personally built several beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and by my own count planted some thing north of 1200 trees and wetland plants. Why? To provide an attractive habitat and thus encouragement for beavers to come and do the real restoration work.

It works too! Several streams we've worked on have indeed enticed beaver to come back to create rich and diverse wetland habitat. In turn, these beaver paradises provide food and shelter for a great many species: salmonids, numerous bird species, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, plus the huge variety of invertebrates that's often form the base of complex food webs. Species which would not otherwise be able to survive in the area return and thrive due to the handiwork of beavers. Honestly, I can think of no better, faster, or cheaper way to improve and enhance habitat than attracting and supporting beavers to do the work for us. They've been doing it for millennia after all, and they're far better at it than we are.

Let's pass this bill and let *Castor canadensis* get to work!