

Submitter: Heidi Steinert-Bresilge  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Chair Rep. Lively, Rep. Vice-Chair Gamba, Rep. Vice-Chair Levy and members of the committee,

We are at a tipping point with our environment and need to be doing all we can to support the preservation and improvements for all living beings. Water is not a stationary element. What is affected in one area, spreads to others. Improved water quality is important to Oregonians. Thousands of miles of Oregon's waterways are in poor health. I urge you to support HB 3932 to allow beavers to improve watershed health, protect water quality and help restore Oregon's impaired waterways for free. We now know the benefits of beavers as ecosystem engineers. Let's allow this keystone species to continue to provide benefits to watersheds by preventing lethal removal on public lands where they live on water quality impaired waterways.

There is robust scientific evidence that shows the work of beavers can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest or hunting. Instead, this bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out. The OR Department of Environmental Quality has already listed so many streams as water quality limited, let's keep this species which can improve water quality on the landscape, doing their work for free.