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

Our residence is adjacent to a beaver pond that didn't exist when we first moved in. Instead it was an expanse of mostly tall grass, reeds, and wild brush with a sliver of a creek that was a tributary of Fanno creek in the Raleigh Hills area. Several years ago beavers became opportunists who took advantage of a fallen tree by utilizing it to make a dam. One might think they were the tree fallers but they were not. There was no evidence at the base of the tree that beavers had anything to do with it toppling. The resultant beaver pond has become a blessing we could never put a price on. The pond has become habitat for countless species. Waterfowl such as herons, egrets, geese, ducks, birds that dive into the water, frogs, etc. Not all species are necessarily welcome but only because they pose a threat to other species. For example we have a tremendous chorus of tree frogs each spring thru early summer that we love but bull frogs have shown up recently and they make us fear for the fate of the little frogs. We made the startling discovery the pond now harbors snapping turtles even though we've only witnessed them twice. There is also a population of Nutria that clearly enjoy the pond. All in all the beavers have made most of the wildlife we get to appreciate possible and have no resentment towards them for trying to eat our apple tree. I've taken measures with hardware cloth and fencing to protect the our gnawed upon tree but I yearly prune the tree of its suckers and leave them where the beavers waste no time hauling them away.

Everything I've described goes towards selfish reason for appreciating the beavers but knowing the benefit they impart to the ecology I would love them nevertheless even if we lived nowhere near them.

Please do all that can be done to protect them!!