

Submitter: Catherine Dickson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Good morning,

I am writing in support of HB 3932, to limit the take of beavers from impaired watersheds.

I am an archaeologist so am familiar with environmental conditions prior to the attempt at beaver extirpation. I have a good understanding of how our environment has changed over time, often due to the lack of beavers. This is particularly stark where I live in eastern Oregon, where water tables have dropped and streams have incised. I have reviewed many proposed beaver dam analogs (BDAs) that are designed to improve fish (and other) habitats. The goal of these projects is to create conditions welcoming to beavers. Thus, removing beavers from places they already live is counterproductive. We're just going to have to try to get them back in the future. I think that even in these places where we're using state and federal funds to create BDAs, with the goal of having actual beavers, within the state of Oregon, one can then go ahead and trap the beavers. This is remarkably poor management. I encourage everyone on the committee to read Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter by Ben Goldfarb. It will change how you think about these animals.

I am a proud OSU alum and take our state animal and state flag seriously. Please join me in protecting these animals so that they can help restore our impaired watersheds!

-Catherine Dickson