

Submitter: Scott Carpenter

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,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 3932, which will pave the way for beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways at no cost to taxpayers.

Beavers are ecosystem engineers. Their activities such as canal-digging and dam-building help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, all while creating wildlife and fish habitat.

Almost half of all of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality. That's over 100,000 miles of waterways! The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways but lacks the resources to do this at the scale needed. This is where beavers can help.

Passing HB 3932 would allow beavers to help restore these waterways by closing hunting and trapping of beavers on these impaired waterways on public lands. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address most of the water quality issues of concern. This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest and increasing beaver population. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Carpenter