



Jason Wisniewski, President
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March 24, 2025

Re: Oppose HB 3932

Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

My name is Jason Wisniewski and I am the President of the Fur Takers of America. I'm providing this testimony on behalf of the Fur Takers of America, a national conservation organization representing more than 2,500 trappers from across the United States and Canada.

I am testifying to express our opposition to HB 3932 which seeks to prohibit the taking of beavers on waters or watershed meeting certain classifications or that are considered public waters. This concept has been presented to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission several times and has been rejected based on the best available science from the leading natural resources managers in the state based on insufficient support to warrant such an action. This is largely due to the justification for this bill being founded on misrepresentations, oversimplifications, exaggerations, and complete omissions of other significant arguments that allow decision makers to make an informed decision on the actual benefits banning take of beavers.

Although beavers can have many benefits to ecosystems, these benefits are highly dependent upon the local habitat and landscape and only those that have favorable conditions for dams are suitable for their creation regardless of whether beavers are abundant or rare. Hence, it is unlikely that protecting beavers from take whether on public lands will have the positive impacts that are suggested. In addition, proponents of this bill often argue that beaver dams are beneficial for successful salmon recruitment but typically omit the findings of several National Marine Fisheries Service reports have shown that some beaver dams are impassible by smolts moving downstream and have resulted in take as defined by the US Endangered Species Act.

In reality, beavers are much more abundant across Oregon than most of the proponents of this bill are aware. Few are familiar with appropriate sign and believe that no dams equal no beavers. In contrast beavers are a very common part of Oregon's watersheds and without appropriate harvest can and do cause damage to aquatic habitats as well as important infrastructure if not managed through regulated harvest.

I am asking the committee to consider these points and oppose HB 3932 as the best available science does not support meaningful benefits to the natural resources of Oregon. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is one of the leading wildlife agencies in the country and has excellent staff with the expertise to best manage the wildlife of Oregon. As an aquatic ecologist with over 26 years of experience in managing federally endangered species, I have reviewed much of the same research that



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proponents of this bill use to justify it and believe that the Oregon's Wildlife Commission under advisement of agency staff have made the correct decisions when rejecting this proposal in the past.

Sincerely,

Jason Wisniewski, President