

Submitter: Tyler Lawson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

HB3932 represents an unnecessary legislative overreach into wildlife management decisions that Oregon has wisely delegated to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission. Governor Tina Kotek's appointees, confirmed by the Oregon Senate, are qualified professionals responsible for sustainably managing wildlife, including beaver populations through the comprehensive ODFW Beaver Management Plan.

This issue—banning beaver trapping on federal and state lands—has been presented to the ODFW Commission three times and rejected each time due to a lack of scientific support. While proponents claim beavers universally improve stream health, the science on this matter is inconclusive and highly site-specific. In some areas, beaver activity can reduce water temperatures, yet in other cases, due to factors like increased surface area and shallow pooled water, temperatures may actually rise. There is no conclusive scientific evidence that beaver presence or activity alone consistently improves stream health.

HB3932 undermines the existing professional and science-based approach by politicizing wildlife management and disrupting effective, regulated practices.