

WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public
in water stewardship.*

P.O. Box 1033
Cave Junction, OR
97523

chris@waterleague.org
(541) 415-8010

Board of Directors

President
Gerald Allen

Vice President
Gordon Lyford

Secretary
Tracey Reed

Treasurer
Linda Pace

Christine Perala Gardiner

William Joerger

Dan Wahpepah

Executive Director
Christopher Hall

In Memoriam
John L. Gardiner

March 24, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Representative John Lively, Chair

Representative Mark Gamba, Vice-Chair

Representative Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair

Representatives Tom Andersen, Darcey Edwards, Ken Helm, Emerson Levy,

Pam Marsh, Courtney Neron, Virgle Osborne, Mark Owens, and Kim

Wallan

Re: Water League supports HB 3932, which instructs the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules protecting beavers on and adjacent to public lands.

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and committee members,

Water League engages the public in water stewardship because the waters of Oregon belong to all citizens, and they wish to hold water in trust. We recognize that land and water are one system that flora, fauna, and humans depend on. We support programs that restore natural habitat conditions to our lands and waters.

Oregon has the only double-sided flag in the United States, with the state seal on one side and a beaver on the other. Oregon should honor the beaver in reality and not just on its flag.

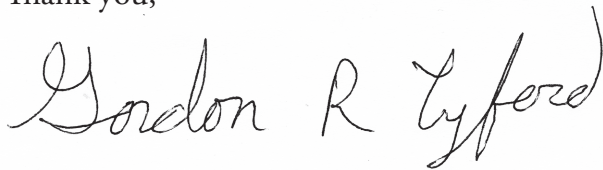
Oregon should work to reverse the historical mistreatment of beavers. Beavers provide many benefits to streams and the environment. Beavers reduce stream erosion, slow flood flows, cool water temperature, provide pools for fish, and recharge groundwater. Beavers can also cause damage by building dams that

flood low-lying lands where commercial and residential structures, agricultural fields, lawns, and other built infrastructure are located.

HB 3932 requires that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission list (map) certain watersheds and surface water channels and bodies “that flow through or are adjacent to public land” to facilitate regulations prohibiting persons “from taking a beaver, for a recreational or commercial purpose” from those locations. However, the bill does permit taking beavers “to address damages or an imminent threat” to built infrastructure and agricultural crops on or adjacent to public lands.

HB 3932 will benefit Oregon by listing rivers, streams, and watersheds where the state will implement reasonable measures that protect beavers on or adjacent to public lands.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon R Lyford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "L".

Gordon Lyford CWRE #341
Vice-President of the Board