

Submitter: William Ramirez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Please support HB 3932

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized as Category 4 or 5 by DEQ's water quality standards. This also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act. HB 3932 will allow beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways for free.

The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands deemed impaired by DEQ. Scientific evidence shows that beaver dam complexes can address most water quality issues. And they do it for FREE! 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, and simultaneously create wildlife and fish habitats.

Almost half of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality. The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways but lacks the resources to do this at the scale needed. 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.