

To: Chair Brad Witt, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
RE: Requesting a public hearing for HB 2843/Beaver Legislation

Dear Chairman Witt,

I am writing as an Oregonian, to request that you schedule a public hearing on House Bill 2843, the legislative proposal to close recreational and commercial trapping of beaver on federally-managed public lands.

Oregon water security, water quality, and habitat for fish and wildlife will be enhanced by the passage of this bill. Beaver are a keystone species. They build and maintain critical ecosystem infrastructure at **little to no cost to taxpayers**, offsetting the millions of dollars spent every year to restore salmon habitat in our rivers.

With rapid changes in climate and increasing development pressures on Oregon's landscapes, now is the time to provide protection and encourage the restoration functions of beaver in the natural environment.

A public hearing this legislative session on HB 2843 is imperative to sustain a vibrant future for Oregon. We cannot wait any longer to prevent climate change and its impacts on Oregon's future water security, its streams, fish, wildlife and human communities. We need beavers, and beavers need the protection that comes with HB 2843.

Sincerely,

Cc:

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