



January 31, 2025

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 3143 – Living with Beaver Bill

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD and the SWCDs recognize the value that beavers bring to the landscape and support landowners and managers in working and living with beavers in a proactive and positive way.

As our urban and suburban residents are more and more intersecting and being impacted by beavers, the timing is ripe for programming and funding for private landowners to implement non-lethal beaver mitigation techniques. Homeowners fear potential negative impacts to trees on their properties from beavers being beavers. OACD supports funding for beaver mitigation and coexistence tools for private landowners. SWCDs are positioned to deliver technical assistance on and-the-ground support to landowners and simply need funding to do this work.

We urge your support of HB3143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Andrea Kreiner", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Andrea Kreiner, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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