



Our Mission: *To conserve, protect, and develop soil, water and other natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the residents of Morrow County*

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February 6, 2013

Honorable Senator Bill Hansell
District 29
900 Court St NE
S-423
Salem OR 97301

Dear Senator Hansell:

As a member of the Joint Committee for Ways and Means we are asking for your support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program and budget.

A review of Governor Kitzhaber's 2013-15 recommended budget shows a reduction in funding for this important program for the natural resources and the Oregon where we all want to live, work and play. Noxious weeds reduce land values, watershed health and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. We know a reduced budget for the weed control program will adversely affect Oregon and the Governor's Healthy Environment plan

I know you are aware of the importance and value of noxious weed control-biological, mechanical and chemical, and grant opportunities from the years you served on the State Weed Control Board.

Again, please maintain the Noxious Weed Program budget at least at current levels.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District
Janet Greenup, Manager