

Re: House Bill 2813
Monday March 18, 2013

Attention: House Committee on Energy and Environment

My name is Esther Gruber McEvoy and I am the past Legislative Chair of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), current Vice-President of the Corvallis NPSO and owner of a native plant nursery. I come before the committee in support of HB 2813, a bill which bans the commercial exploitation of *Arundo donax* or Giant Reed in Oregon.

Arundo donax is a nonnative invasive grass that can grow up to 10 inches a day, grow from very small root fragments that are buried up to 9 feet deep, cannot be controlled by fire or flooding and needs precious water for irrigation. For control purposes PGE recommends using the toxic chemical Round-up. Invasive weeds cost the nation \$120 billion each year. Many of these invasive weeds have been introduced by government financed programs. Even though Giant Reed may show promise as a biofuel source because of rapid growth and tolerance of different habitats, it has the disturbing characteristic of becoming an invasive persistent noxious weed that will cost enormous amounts of state funds to control.

Once *Arundo donax* has invaded an area it will out compete the native vegetation. It changes the habitats that once supported diverse native communities of plants, insects, and birds to a monoculture of Giant Reed. In California it is estimated that the eradication of Giant Reed from a single acre of land can cost from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Several scientific studies have shown that almost any segment or stem or rhizome of *Arundo donax* with a bud can sprout and grow to a full sized plant. In California *Arundo donax* has invaded the Central California River Valleys in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Valleys and is increasing in the Northern Coast Range. *Arundo donax* is threatening California's riparian ecosystems by outcompeting native plant species such as willow for water.

This past October while I was driving back from San Francisco, I saw first hand large stands of escaped *Arundo donax* growing in the wet ditches along the I-5 corridor near Sacramento. We should heed the warning signs how *Arundo donax* is destroying the native plant communities in California and prevent a new infestation of another noxious weed in our beautiful state of Oregon. Please support HB 2813 and ban the commercial exploitation of *Arundo donax* in Oregon.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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