



Cal-IPC

California Invasive Plant Council

1442-A Walnut St., #462
Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 843-3902
fax (510) 217-3500
www.cal-ipc.org

Board of Directors

Jason Casanova, President
Council for Watershed Health

Jennifer Funk, Vice President
Chapman University

Jutta Burger, Secretary
Irvine Ranch Conservancy

Steve Schoenig, Treasurer
Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Morgan Ball
Wildlands Conservation Science

Tim Buonaccorsi
RECON Environmental

Gina Darin
California Dept. of Water Resources

Jason Giessow
Dendra, Inc.

Elise Gornish
UC Davis Plant Sciences

Shawn Kelly
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Drew Kerr
Invasive Spartina Project

Dan Knapp
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

John Knapp
The Nature Conservancy

Annabelle Kleist
Capitol Impact

Virginia Matzek
Santa Clara University

David McNeill
Baldwin Hills Conservancy

Student Liaisons

Justin Valliere, *UC Riverside*

Marina LaForgia, *UC Davis*

[Affiliations for identification only]

March 10, 2015

Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Mr. Gallagher:

We are writing to express our support for HB 2183. The bill proposes a sharp increase in bonding requirements for plantations of *Arundo donax* in Oregon. This is an important step in order to ensure that potential long-term environmental impacts of such plantations are adequately addressed.

As you may know, *Arundo donax* is a major invasive plant in California, and is rated a noxious weed by the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture. Tens of millions of dollars are being spent to remove it from invaded riparian areas, where it damages habitat for listed species, consumes groundwater, and poses a fire and flood risk. For detailed information on impacts, see our "*Arundo donax*: Distribution and Impact Report" (at www.cal-ipc.org/ip/research/arundo), prepared for the California State Water Board.

The report examined 50 *Arundo* eradication projects across California. The average cost for eradicating one acre of *Arundo* was \$25,000 (ranging from \$4,700 to \$39,000 per acre). *Arundo* is expensive to eradicate due to the difficulty of treating all re-sprouts, the high amount of biomass, and the sensitivity of locations invaded, typically riparian areas that are strictly regulated. We believe the \$25,000 per acre requirement in HB 2183 is an appropriate amount to mitigate potential future clean-up costs, either on-site or off-site. Such proactive bonding is a best practice as described in the white paper on biofuels published by the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee (at www.invasivespecies.gov/global/ISAC/documents/BiofuelWhitePaper-FINALVERSION.pdf)

We are working hard to control our invasive *Arundo*, and do not want to see Oregon experience similar impacts (and possibly contribute to spreading the plant). We support Oregon HB 2183. Please feel free to contact us for any further information regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Johnson
Executive Director
djohnson@cal-ipc.org
(510) 843-3902 x302