

Date: February 2, 2017

To: Oregon State House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

From: Dave Pranger
Morrow County Weed Coordinator/Inspector
President-Oregon County Weed Control Association

Subject: HB 2043

Chairman Brian Clem and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon County Weed Control Association I would like to first thank you for your service to the State of Oregon. That being said, I would like to go on record as supporting a funding package for Noxious Weed Control in the next State budget.

HB2043, as presently written, is as I understand, merely a placeholder bill so that we may begin discussion of a funding package to support noxious weed control efforts the Department of Agriculture as well as individual Counties around the state.

I have included with my testimony additional letters of support to go along with a proposed funding package that I feel would go a long way toward controlling noxious weeds in Oregon.

On the State level, and of utmost importance is funding to reinstate the Biological Control Program. This program has been recognized as one of the leading programs in the WORLD and provides a benefit to the state unlike any other. An economic study on Tansy Ragwort biological control alone showed a 13:1 benefit to cost ratio. In Morrow County where I work, we have seen tremendous success from the use of seed head weevils on diffuse knapweed, a serious threat to both livestock ranges and clean water due to increased soil erosion caused by knapweed. Most recently, a stem weevil was introduced for the control of Dalmatian toadflax, and is producing great results in controlling this rangeland weed.

These are just a few of many examples of successful biological control efforts around the state that once established help reduce our reliance on the use of pesticides as a tool for control of these invasive noxious weeds.

Support of the County programs as well as the State program goes hand in hand since the counties work together with the state on many weed projects and serve as the ground force for many weed control efforts coordinated by the state. Funding for county programs is needed to help struggling programs remain active as well as provide an incentive to those counties currently unable to fund a program needed resources to get started.

I ask that you consider the funding package presented with this testimony. Your support will enable us to better protect the valuable natural resources of the State of Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Pranger
Morrow County Weed Coordinator/Inspector
President-Oregon County Weed Control Association.