

February 3rd, 2017

Oregon Senators
Oregon Representatives
Salem, OR

Dear legislators,

I am writing to ask that you support the budget request of \$3.3 million to continue the Oregon Department of Agriculture Biological Control Program and to continue grant support to our many County Weed Districts throughout the state.

These programs are greatly beneficial to Oregonians, to our economy, and to our environment. Noxious weeds, agricultural pests, and other invasive species cause millions of dollars in damage to our nurseries, rangelands, and food crops as well as impacting thousands of acres of our natural areas. One of the best tools we have to lessen the impact of existing pests is through biological control. Oregon has led the way in this field and has been recognized around the world for the positive impacts this program has made to Oregon and beyond. An economic study on Tansy Ragwort biological control alone showed a 13:1 benefit to cost ratio. Our tax money is well spent on this program.

Supporting our County Weed Districts is similarly beneficial for Oregon's economy and environment, as well as supporting good jobs in often remote, rural areas. These funds allow for on-the-ground control, monitoring, and early detection of pests across Oregon. Early detection and rapid response is the most effective method for preventing the establishment of new pests and the damage they cause. For that we need county weed districts that are active and supported with state funding.

Please support HB2043 and funds for these programs at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Thank you,

Lindsey Wise

Tigard, Oregon