

AOC Supports HB 2043

AOC has been working closely with the Oregon Noxious Weed Control program and supports their efforts. In 2016 they requested \$3.4M to fully fund their programs. HB 2043 provides an excellent first step in getting the counties and the Oregon Department of Agriculture working closer to capacity.

Some background on how we have made this recommendation:

- According to a recent study the current impact of noxious weeds on Oregon's economy is conservatively \$83.5 M.
- Predictive modeling states that the potential future impact of noxious weeds is \$1.8 B.
- Early detection and rapid response projects are highly effective and have a ROI of 34:1.
- Only 23 of 36 counties have programs; funding is the largest restriction.
- ORS 569.520 outlines county weed control districts but is severely underfunded.
- The 2000 "Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan" calls for an additional \$5.2M in state funds, of which \$3.2 M were directed to county programs. Last year there were no general funds expended on the program.

This increased funding would be an important step in reducing the potential impact of noxious weeds on the State's economy although falls short of the 2000 recommendations. Funding would support core staff and programs at ODA and allow counties without a program the seed funding to start or restore their county weed control district.

Without a comprehensive, coordinated and well-funded program noxious weeds will continue to be an economic strain on Oregon. We urge you to pass HB 2043. Please contact AOC Policy Staff Mark Nystrom (mnystrom@oregoncounties.org) with any questions.