

Raszka Shelley

From: Tania Siemens <tania.j.siemens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 4:02 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Please support HB 2043

Dear Committee members:

I was born in Oregon and have grown to love Oregon's beauty and productive agricultural systems. Throughout my life, I have seen the startling negative impacts that invasive plants such as blackberry, English ivy, tansy ragwort, false brome, and yellow star thistle have had on Oregon's land, water, economy, and human health. I do not want to see these invaders (and others like it) spread even more and damage Oregon any further. That is why I urge you to support HB 2043, which helps fund Oregon Department of Agriculture's noxious weed program.

On par with pollution and habitat destruction, invasive species are a real environmental, economic, and human health problem that cannot be ignored. A recent study published in January 2017 conducted by the Washington Invasive Species Council concluded that the economic impact of 23 of the most damaging invasive species in Washington at \$1.3 billion a year and a loss of 8,000 jobs. (http://rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/press/2017/164.shtml) The situation is similar in Oregon. A 2014 economic analysis on the impacts of just 25 of the noxious weeds in Oregon concluded that they cost our economy \$83.5 million. (<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ORNoxiousWeedEconomicImpact.pdf>)

Invasive species spread can be likened to a slow motion wildfire. Therefore, it is critical to take a proactive approach by preventing the spread and acting quickly to implement early detection and rapid response mechanisms before the damaging invasion have too much impact, and are too hard to control. The economic analysis referenced above also concluded that for every \$1 spent today on prevention, you will save \$34 in control later on. Investing in invasive species prevention now will save Oregon tax payers dollars in the future, and help preserve Oregon's natural resource legacy. I urge you to help protect Oregon's natural resources, our agricultural commodities, our economy, and human health by funding ODA's noxious weed program. Please support **HB 2043**.

Sincerely,

Tania Siemens

2055 Grant St

Eugene, OR

97405

541-914-0701