



February 7, 2017

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2043

Dear Chair Clem, and members of the committees:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association supports HB 2043 and funding for Oregon's weed control programs.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's Biological Control Program for Noxious Weeds is critical to Oregon's agriculturists and 2043 can ensure that ODA has sufficient funds to continue this valuable program. The funding for weed control also allows local ranchers, through weed control districts, to provide early detection and prevention of threatening plants. Noxious weeds and invasive species wreak havoc on Oregon's rangelands and pastures. Controlling these threats helps our ranchers and provides a valuable return on investment to Oregon's economy. The return on investment of these funds and benefit to rural economies is just another opportunity for legislators to support rural Oregon.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association ("OCA") is the voice of the cattle industry in Oregon. We represent over 2,000 ranchers in Oregon and aim to help grow Oregon's beef industry and promote environmentally and socially sound economic practices in producing beef products sold worldwide. Oregon has over 13,000 cattle producers, using 57% of state agricultural lands and comprising 14% of Oregon's total agricultural sector.

Please support our beef industry and vote "yes" on HB 2043.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerome Rosa'.

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director