

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Lindsey Wise and I write in support of SB 445, restructuring and funding of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC).

As the data administrator for the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline, a program supported by the OISC and managed by Portland State University, I have worked with the Council for many years. The Hotline and website allow Oregonians and visitors to report invasive species directly to a statewide network of natural resource professionals, who help with identification and provide fast on-the-ground response for high priority species. The program has seen great success and is highly valued by the Council, managers, and the public. I value the support and involvement of the Council and believe it is essential to continue funding their efforts through SB 445.

Fast response to high priority species is the most effective way to manage invasive species threats, both in terms of management success and cost savings. Invasive species costs Oregon hundreds of millions of dollars a year in lost revenues from impacted forestry, farming, and nursery industries and costs millions of dollars in direct management and mitigation of invasive species. The more we can do to prevent new negative impacts of invasive species the lower the cost.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council focuses on early detection and rapid response efforts to invasive species threats based on science and consensus across its many federal, state, local, and private members. The Council cuts across jurisdictional boundaries to address threats across Oregon on land and in our rivers and oceans. No other entity takes this broad a view of the invasive species threat in Oregon, and it is imperative that we continue to support the Council and its efforts, as invasive species threats continue to move into Oregon. Devastating pests such as the emerald ash borer and the spotted lanternfly are heading west across the US, and Oregon needs the Council to provide a coordinated response to prepare for their impacts.

Please support the Oregon Invasive Species Council by passing SB 445.

Thank you,

Lindsey Wise