



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

February 26, 2019

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Chair Michael Dembrow
Committee Members
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sam Brentano
Kevin Cameron
Colm Willis

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

RE: Support SB 445

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

Marion County urges your support of Senate Bill 445, which would request funding for the coordination of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), as well as revise the Council membership. SB 445 will positively impact Marion County residents, land owners, and businesses by providing funding, statewide representation, and education about the control of invasive species that can impact our county and state.

As Marion County Commissioners, we serve more than 330,000 residents, a large percentage of whom represent industries that can be affected by the spread of invasive species.

The OISC is the only statewide entity tasked with coordinating invasive species efforts of all types. Oregon is a hub for commerce, agriculture, and recreation. As such, we are at risk for the introduction of new invasive species from numerous pathways including international shipping, air travel, railway movement, truck transport, and boat transit. Marion County maintains more than 900 paved miles of roads and is only 50 miles from the nearest port. With vehicle transportation being a major pathway for the spread of invasive species, we appreciate the statewide efforts of OISC in controlling their spread.

Invasive species pose a serious statewide threat to Oregon's economy, infrastructure, food, water, agriculture, and recreational activities; a concern that is shared by Marion County. We believe that by providing adequate funding, early detection and eradication of harmful species is possible and we support OISC's vision to eliminate, reduce, and mitigate the threats of invasive species to all communities throughout Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 445.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cameron, Chair

Samuel A. Brentano, Vice Chair

Colm Willis, Commissioner