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CITY OF PORTLAND UTILITIES

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**Bureau of Environmental Services**

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**Portland Water Bureau**

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April 21, 2021

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, HR E  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports investments in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) invasive species programs, including POP 310 for Japanese Beetle Eradication, and does not support the proposal to shift \$465,000 in funding from the Noxious Weed Control Program to the Hemp Program in SB 5502. The current proposed budget would reduce the effectiveness of state efforts protecting Oregon's economy and natural resources and impact the successful partnerships the City and the Oregon Department of Agriculture have fostered to address the risks posed by invasive species.

The efforts of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, in coordination with those of the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program, have resulted in the eradication or control of species which are known to pose a significant risk to human health, infrastructure, and the environment. These efforts also assist in keeping invasive plant species, that arrive to the city via commerce and trade, from dispersing to the rest of the state. Portland's Water Bureau, in coordination with the Noxious Weed Control Program and other partners including the Bonneville Power Administration, US Forest Service, and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, has also made significant strides in invasive species control outside of Portland's Bull Run Watershed, work that protects Portland's drinking water. The City of Portland relies on the cooperation and support from the Noxious Weed Control Program to effectively implement these efforts. Shifting of funds to another program puts the investments we and the ODA have made, at risk.

The City of Portland greatly appreciates the accomplishments of ODA's invasive species programs and urges the Legislature to amend the Governor's proposed budget to retain these funds. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at [eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov) or at 503-823-6726

Respectfully,

Gabriel Solmer  
Director, Portland Water Bureau  
City of Portland

Michael Jordan  
Director, Bureau of Environmental Services  
City of Portland