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## OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

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A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for SB 899 – Funding for Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC)

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 899. Oregonians for Food & Shelter (OFS) is a diverse coalition comprised of members across Oregon's natural resource sector, including many of Oregon's agricultural commodity groups and the forest products industry. Our membership also includes companies responsible for protection of natural and urban spaces from invasive and noxious weeds and pests. These members come together around the importance of pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology in managing pests for production, and protection of natural resources and public health. We advocate for science-based policies impacting these tools, and we prioritize innovation and stewardship.

OFS members are fully aligned with the mission of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, which is to protect Oregon's natural resources and economy by leading a coordinated effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to eradicate, contain, or manage existing invasive species in Oregon.

We know that it isn't just agriculture and forestry that are impacted by invasive species. Natural and urban spaces, water infrastructure, and public health can all be at risk if invasive species are not managed. Unchecked invasive species can transform entire ecosystems, resulting in widespread displacement of native flora and fauna with serious economic impacts as well.

Like many issues impacting Oregon's natural resource sector, effective protection against invasive species requires close collaborations across agencies, partnerships with the private sector, and a strong communication network. The OISC has been functioning on a shoe string for far too long, lacking dedicated staff and funding to sufficiently develop outreach and education tools and ensure collaboration across state agencies and partner organizations. We appreciate Senators Brock-Smith, Frederick, and Weber bringing this bill forward and hope to see this funding secured.

Sincerely,

**Katie Murray**  
Executive Director  
Oregonians for Food & Shelter  
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