

Submitter: Crystalyn Bush

On Behalf Of: Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Measure: HB5002

Dear Committee Members:

Our agency uses ODA funds awarded through the Oregon State Weed Board to survey, treat, and monitor invasive plants in Columbia County. Our local municipal agencies are often without the proper resources to address these issues, not to mention the burden on private landowners attempting to deal with pernicious noxious weeds on their own. Without this funding we would likely not be able to address high priority new infestations or invest in any preventative or educational measures. Over the years, grants we have obtained through the Oregon State Weed Board have allowed us to treat many miles of sensitive streambanks for Garlic mustard and Knotweed, survey for and treat infestations of newer species like Meadow knapweed, Spurge laurel, Lesser celandine, and Milk thistle, eradicate toxic Giant hogweed from the County, provide workshops, install educational signage, purchase equipment, and create up-to-date outreach materials. I am writing in support of continued funding for ODA and the Oregon State Weed Board as critical funding sources for resource managers working to preserve our local natural resources and the important ecological and economic functions they provide.

Thank you!