

Submitter: Jennifer Lippert

On Behalf Of: Native Plant Society Emerald Chapter

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

Measure: HB5002

I urge you to maintain funding for both the Plant Conservation Biology Program and the Noxious Weed Programs in the Department of Agriculture. I recently retired from the US Forest Service and collaborated with staff from both programs during my 32 years of service. The Plant Conservation Biology Program is critical in tracking rare species and collaborating with landowners to maintain and enhance habitat and plant populations so that species do not become so reduced that they get listed as Threatened or Endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Noxious Weed Program partners with landowners to survey and control the highest priority weeds in the state, all of which reduce the diversity of native plants in the state. Both programs are critical to maintenance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in the state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time.