

Submitter: Jacob Rose

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Please support the desperately needed action to conserve of rare species, protect for farmers' livelihoods, and manage of costly invasive species. I'm writing you today as a lover of Oregon's beauty and proponent of access to the outdoors.

You look to the north at Washington spending millions annually to protect oystering habitat from cordgrass (Spartina). You look to the east at Idaho spending millions to protect hydroelectric facilities from quagga mussels on the Snake River. You look to the south and California is spending millions on alligatorweed.

Oregon is currently fighting invasive species with two hands behind its back. There is no stable, recurrent funding for managing devastating noxious weeds, invasive insects like emerald ash borer, or pathogens like sudden oak death. What happens when these species take over?

The Oregon Invasive Species would get a small, but significant piece of this revenue to protect the very lands and waters that visitors from all over flock to.

We need to get serious about this situation. I don't think it is lost on anyone reading this, but nipping invasive species in the bud is excellent ROI. The OISC's Emergency Fund is small, but saves Oregonians millions in economic impact.

We cannot get to a point where we're staring out at a sharp, crusty, completely spoiled beach consumed by mussels and think what if. Untie our hands and give us a fighting chance!