



April 6, 2021

Representative Brad Witt – Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Capitol Address: 900 Court St. NE, H-374, Salem, Oregon 97301
Email: Rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov
Website: <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/witt>

Dear Representative Witt,

The State Weed Coordinators Alliance (SWCA) is an informal association of lead officials responsible for implementing noxious weed-related policies and programs with state departments of agriculture across the western states. In addition to the in-state responsibilities of the state weed coordinators, SWCA members promote and coordinate responses to the spread of noxious weeds across state boundaries.

We are writing to express our concern regarding the recent severe cuts to the noxious weed program within the Oregon Department of Agriculture. These cuts pose a threat to the effective management of noxious weeds, not only geographically abutting states, but to all states in the region due to interstate transportation and the myriad other vectors of seed and plant-propagule spread.

In addition to our primary concerns over noxious weed management directly, we are concerned about the second-level impacts to a variety of programs and initiatives across the western states having to do with the management of certain wildlife species (e.g., sage grouse), and the prevention of wildfire and soil erosion.

For these reasons, we encourage your legislature to prioritize the restoration of funding for this critical ODA program, as it will not only benefit the residents of the state of Oregon, but will also relieve the burden on other states of a serious threat to productive agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive areas that easily transcend boundaries.

Sincerely,

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State Noxious Weed Coordinator/Manager
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