



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

March 18, 2013

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301
anne.may@state.or.us

Re: House Bill 2813: declaring giant reed or giant cane (*Arundo donax*) to be noxious weed.

Dear Chair Bailey and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge ("Friends") has reviewed and would like to comment on the House Bill 2813, declaring giant reed or giant cane, *Arundo donax*, to be a noxious weed. Friends is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

Friends is concerned about the potential impacts of giant reed on the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Columbia River Gorge, particularly shoreline and riparian habitats that are critical for public recreation and for the survival of numerous threatened and endangered species. Giant reed has been documented as a devastating noxious weed in other regions. Numerous experts have expressed concern about the likelihood of giant reed establishing in Oregon, particularly in light of the increased risk that would occur as temperatures increase due to climate change. If giant reed is allowed to become established in Oregon, it has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to Oregon's natural resources.

The enormous public investments already going towards restoring shorelines and riparian habitats along the Columbia River demonstrate that prevention is substantially more cost effective than eradication. Friends supports efforts that place primary emphasis on avoiding the impacts of invasive plants such as giant reed rather than relying on costly efforts that minimize impacts once the plant is established.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Richard Till.

Richard Till, Conservation Legal Advocate