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On Behalf Of: Oregon Invasive Species Council
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure: HB4148

The Oregon Invasive Species Council was established by the legislature in 2001, with the goal of conducting a coordinated and comprehensive effort to prevent the entry of invasive species into Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, and mitigate the effects of those invasive species already present.

The role of the Council is not to tackle invasive species issues by itself in a vacuum but to act as a catalyst, providing leadership and supporting collaborative efforts across our network of members.

The responsibilities of the Council include:
Administering an Emergency Control Account
Developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan
Providing a grant program for education and outreach
Educating the public and policymakers about invasive species
Maintaining a reporting hotline

As proposed, additional funding for council operations would allow the Council to increase contracted coordinator hours, expand the number and scope of outreach projects planned for the coming year, and conduct a comprehensive review of programs and activities - including assessing the current capability of the Council to address priority invasive species issues.

To better establish and maintain a high level of awareness of invasive species issues, the Council relies on our partners to mobilize and lead these efforts. Funding for the Council's Education and Outreach grants program would allow the Council to actualize a competitive grant program for partner organizations, tribes, and more - empowering communities statewide to build knowledge and awareness of those invasive species issues that directly affect their local economies and natural systems.

The final provision, funding for the Council's Emergency Control Account, will allow the Council to continue to allocate meaningful resources to emergency control projects. This essential tool for emergency response began with a one-time deposit in 2009 of \$350,000 and has been used to support multiple emergency response efforts across the state, but has never been supplemented, and current funds are minimal.

With a robust Emergency Control Account, the Council will be able to respond promptly to facilitate eradication and control of new or expanding infestations. This

agility will save money by providing targeted funds during the most crucial stages of an invasion - when they are most likely to contribute to success.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with what is currently a success story - not only for the Council but also our state - and is one that demonstrates how invasive species issues are interconnected with all aspects of this omnibus wildlife bill; wildlife diseases, wildlife coexistence, invasive species, and wildlife corridors.

In 2006, there were an estimated 3,000 feral swine in Oregon. Thanks to a successful collaboration between ODFW, USDA APHIS, the Council and others, there are no known established populations of feral swine in the state. Vigilance is required to maintain this status, and the Council continues to support efforts such as the Squeal on Pigs hotline - established by the Council - in partnership with Washington and Idaho.

Working together to address invasive species we will:

- ? Protect Oregon's natural resources and economy
- ? Keep Oregon's people and places healthy
- ? Save Oregon hundreds of million dollars in economic and environmental harm through prevention and emergency response

Thank you again for your time.