



Senate Committee on Rules

June 25, 2025

Re: Support for HB 2977

Dear Chair Senator Jama, Vice-Chair Senator Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

We are writing in support of HB 2977, 1% for Wildlife Bill, which includes support for the Oregon Invasive Species Council's Emergency Invasive Species Control Account. Funding is nearly depleted for the Council's Invasive Species Control Account and this bill will fund projects crucial for protecting Oregon's natural resources and agricultural commodity-based industry. The cost of invasive species impacts in Oregon range from \$0.5B - \$3B annually and the Emergency Invasive Species Control Account facilitates timely responses to emerging or expanding infestations that do not otherwise have funding. This Account provides critical funding for time-sensitive "early detection, rapid response" projects. For example, the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) recently approved nearly \$500 million from this account to respond to the Japanese Beetle control effort in Washington County. This funding is being used to suppress Japanese beetle grubs and adults that feed voraciously on a wide range of crops, such as grapes, hops, fruits, roses, turf, and berries, critical to Oregon's agriculture-based economy.

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. One of our priority conservation goals is the prevention, early detection-rapid response, and management and control of invasive species, which are introduced plants, pathogens, insects and aquatic organisms that spread rapidly due to a lack of biological controls. Their spread leads to ecological, economic and social harm to people and the environment.

We work closely with agriculture and forest landowners and lead watershed-level restoration projects that target invasive species through suppression efforts and protect sensitive species such as salmon. Invasive insect pests such as the Japanese Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer are currently expanding their populations. We need additional funding to be able to do this work.

Without the passage of HB 2977, the OISC Emergency Invasive Species Control Account will be left nearly empty and we will be unable to respond to harmful invasive species threats. This bill will also allocate modest funds to facilitate the Statewide Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan, administer a legislatively-mandated Education & Outreach grant program, maintain an invasive species reporting hotline and much more. Our state's environmental and economic livelihoods are at stake. Please give full consideration to passing HB 2977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "TPRiggsby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terri Preeg Riggsby,
Chair and Zone 5 Director, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors