



September 26, 2013

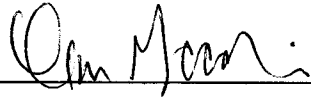



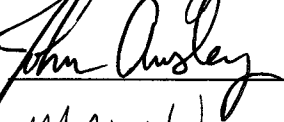
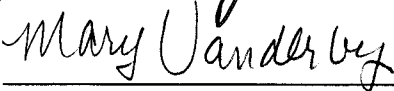

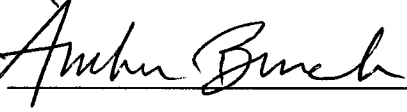
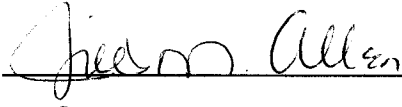


Re: Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program Funding

Montana's NWSFF program ensures that hay and straw utilized in Montana's back country and on construction projects across the state are free of noxious weeds. By preventing the spread of noxious weeds into weed-free areas, the NWSFF program benefits our state both economically and environmentally. The cost of treatment once these plants move into new areas is costly and the damage to Montana's pristine environment by the spread of these weeds is devastating. Any action we can take to prevent this spread is extremely important.

After the passage of SB144 this past session, the Department of Agriculture took steps to make the NWSFF program self-sustaining. By recommending fee increases for those who utilize the system, the program would fund itself, and not be reliant on the support of other revenue to keep it sustained. It was a good, common-sense solution to the shortfall in funding, and the program would continue to protect our state from further weed-spread. The needs of our back country sportsmen and the construction industry would be fulfilled, by still being able to purchase these products from in-state producers.

We the undersigned ask that the Economic Affairs Interim Committee reconsider its decision objecting to the NWSFF program becoming self-funded. This program is vital to the noxious weed management efforts of our counties and agencies across our state.

Signature	Print Your Full Name	Affiliation
<i>Oscar Cantu</i>	Oscar Cantu	Fergus Co. Weed District
<i>Brady Cannon</i>	Brady Cannon	Fergus Co. Weed
<i>Margie N. Edsall</i>	Margie N. Edsall	Madison Co. Weed
<i>Pam Converse</i>	Pam Converse	Pondera Co. Weed
<i>Evelyn Halverson</i>	Evelyn Halverson	Sweet Grass Co. Weed
<i>Will Patterson</i>	Will Patterson	Cascade County
<i>DAVID BRINK</i>	DAVID BRINK	MINERAL COUNTY WEED DISTRICT
<i>Melissa Griffiths</i>	Melissa Griffiths	Madison Valley Ranchlands WEED

Signature	Print Your Full Name	Affiliation
	Kim Goodman	private
	Scott Owens	Broadwater County Weed Coordinator
	Stephanie Blasenak	Jefferson Co. Weed District
	MICHAEL JONES	Gallatin Co.
	John Ansley	Gallatin Co. Weed District
	Mary Vanderby	Gallatin Co.
	Jack Eddie	Beaverhead County
	AMBER BURCH	BEAVERHEAD COUNTY
	JILL M. ALLEN	Jefferson County
	DIANA ERICSON	PVT
	Becky KINGTON	PVT