

# Support SB24-031: Local Authority Enforce Violation of Noxious Weed Act

Sponsors: Senator Roberts, Representatives Lukens & McLachlan

## **Background**

Under current law, the commissioner of agriculture assesses civil penalties for violations of state laws related to the prevention of noxious weeds.

Noxious weed control has been required in the state of Colorado since the Colorado Noxious Weed Management Act was passed in 1990. However, enforcement is an ongoing issue that complicates the success of management efforts undertaken by law abiding citizens. Effectively addressing noxious weeds is key to protecting our soils, waters, native ecosystems, public lands, and agriculture producers. Enforcement of existing laws regarding noxious weeds will result in collective efforts, which pretends the destruction and contamination of our ecosystems. In addition, preventative measures such as noxious weed management allow agriculture producers to use fewer herbicides to manage the presence of such weeds.

## **Legislation**

SB24-031:

- Clarifies that a board of county commissioners may approve the assessment and collection of fines for the violation of local laws regarding the management of noxious weeds in the county;
- Makes a violation a civil infraction;
- Creates a civil penalty for an infraction with a fine between \$500 and \$1,000;
- Gives a county attorney the authority to issue an injunction to prevent an ongoing violation; and
- Allows a board to appoint a district attorney to enforce violations if a county doesn't have a county attorney.

## **Supporters**

Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), Pueblo West Metro District

