

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

02/26/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-031 Local Auth Enforce Violation of Noxious Weed Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Todd Youren Against themselves	This bill will destroy a small revenue source which subsidizes our income in retirement! Please vote no on this bill. Sincerely, Todd Youren
Karen Kalavity Against themselves	Here, in Westminster, Russian Olives are being taken out in the name of getting rid of noxious weeds, when they, in fact, are the only trees that can survive some of the conditions we have left nature to deal with. We need to re-think our definition of "weeds" when they may be the only plants left to live in our climate change world. Specifically, Russian Olives were taken out within an area designated as an RTD Park and Ride Station where the purposely planted trees almost exclusively died due to heat island effects of heat-radiating pavement that killed the "approved species" of trees. The Russian Olives survived until they were taken out, simply because they are considered noxious weeds. As with many hardy plant species, Russian Olives are great pollinator plants that allow bees to use their pollen for food, while butterflies are attracted to their sweet smell and bird species regularly use the trees for habitat and nesting. We need to re-think our definition of "noxious weeds" and allow hardy plants to live rather than allowing our human-caused "climate-change" landscapes to be nothing more than asphalt, rooftops and concrete.