



February 17, 2010

The Honorable Senator Mary Hodge, Chair
 The Honorable Senator Bruce Whitehead, Vice Chair
 The Honorable Senator Greg Brophy
 The Honorable Senator Dan Gibbs
 The Honorable Senator Ted Harvey
 The Honorable Senator Ken Kester
 The Honorable Senator Gail Schwartz
 Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
 State of Colorado
 State Capitol Building
 200 East Colfax, Room 346
 Denver, CO 80203

To The Honorable Senators of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

This letter respectfully provides you with Douglas County's support for Senate Bill 10-098 scheduled to be heard in Committee on February 18.

Douglas County supports this Bill with Amendment SB098_L.002 as it will allow us to further the County's weed control programs as established in our State-approved 2005 Weed Management Plan.

Colorado's local government noxious weed programs have been operating under an unfunded mandate since the Colorado Noxious Weed Act was passed in 1996 and then amended in 2003. As a result, a majority of local government programs have been unable to comply with state law, due to lack of funding.

SB10-098 will allow Counties to cooperate and/or contract with conservation districts and weed programs utilizing existing Conservation Trust Fund allocations. This gives counties, conservation districts, and weed programs the option to work together on local conservation and weed control projects, subject to approval and review by the County Commissioners.

We respectfully request your support of Senate Bill 10-098 with Amendment SB098_L.002. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven A. Boand', written over a white background.

Steven A. Boand, Chair
 Douglas County Board of Commissioners