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June 27, 2017

Mr. Lloyd Knight, Plant Industries Administrator
Idaho State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Dear Mr. Knight,

The Twin Falls County Commissioners and the Twin Falls County Noxious Weed Department would like to express our opposition to the addition of the Taxus species (English & Japanese Yew) to the Idaho State Noxious Weed list.

Idaho's Noxious Weed list contains species that are extremely aggressive and would be detrimental to the environment without containment and control measures. Although these plants are, like many others, poisonous to wildlife they do not have the "*potential to cause injury to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property*" as per the Noxious Weed definition in Idaho Code §22-2402. While the events of this last winter were unfortunate, it does not justify adding an entire Taxus species to the Noxious Weed list.

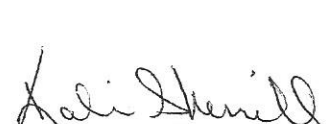
Municipalities are already strained with the effort to control, contain and eradicate weeds currently on the state list. Adding this species will further burden already stressed County budgets with little to no benefit to the public.

Sincerely,


Terry Ray Kramer
Chairman


Don Hall
Commissioner


Jack Johnson
Commissioner


Kali Sherrill
Weeds Supervisor

CC: Adam Schroeder, ISDA Noxious Weeds
Terry Lee, IAWCS Chairman