



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-020

BY SENATOR(S) Crowder, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Newell, Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Sonnenberg, Steadman, Tate, Todd, Ulibarri, Woods, Cadman; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vigil, Arndt, Becker J., Brown, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Danielson, DelGrosso, Duran, Esgar, Ginal, Hamner, Kagan, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Sharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Lundeen, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Neville P., Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Roupe, Ryden, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Tyler, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams, Wilson, Windholz, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst.

CONCERNING THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS ON FEDERAL LAND.

WHEREAS, Invasive noxious weed species have overrun national wildlife refuges (NWR) in Colorado, including the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, because federal law is not being enforced; and

WHEREAS, The Monte Vista NWR, established in 1952, contains 14,804 acres and the Alamosa NWR, established in 1962, contains 12,026 acres, and the two refuges were administratively combined in 1979; and

WHEREAS, The Baca NWR, established in 2003, contains 92,500 acres; and

WHEREAS, Since 1952, the Monte Vista NWR has continued to purchase land without the tools, personnel, and funding to adequately manage the noxious weeds on the acres obtained; and

WHEREAS, According to Section 15 of the "Federal Noxious Weed Act", P.L. 93-629 (the Act), each federal agency has a duty to designate an office or person adequately trained in the management of undesirable plant species to establish, develop, coordinate, and adequately fund an undesirable plants management program for control of undesirable plants on federal lands under the agency's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, The Act describes the management process to control undesirable plants, the "cooperative agreement" with state entities, and "authorized appropriations" for budgeting; and

WHEREAS, Local farmers whose land is adjacent to the refuges are seeing their properties harmed by invasive noxious weeds that have spread from the refuge lands; and

WHEREAS, Local farmers must either pay for their own noxious weed control or incur a charge when the local weed control districts treat the noxious weeds on their lands; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the General Assembly:

(1) Desire to bring to the attention of the United States Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service the problem of invasive noxious weeds spreading throughout and beyond the aforementioned refuges;

(2) Request that the federal agencies allow a request-for-proposal contract between the NWR and a licensed commercial applicator weed control subcontractor in order to resolve the matter;

(3) Suggest that the federal government provide appropriate funding to adequately control the current amount of noxious weeds; and

(4) Establish adequate funding for future noxious weed control.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this joint resolution be sent to:

The members of Colorado's congressional delegation; Ruth Welch, director of the Colorado state office of the Bureau of Land Management; Noreen Walsh, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region; Sally Jewell, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; and the managers of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge; the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge; and the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

Bill L. Cadman
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
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Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
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