



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1004

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Mitsch Bush, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran;
also SENATOR(S) Baumgardner, Sonnenberg, Aguilar, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE PREVENTION OF AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES IN COLORADO.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has recognized that Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) have devastating economic, environmental, and social effects on the water resources and infrastructure of the state; and

WHEREAS, Due to the multi-jurisdictional nature of Colorado waters, the State of Colorado Zebra and Quagga Mussel Management Plan recommendations apply to all partners and no single entity is responsible for, or capable of, implementing all of the actions necessary to protect Colorado waters from invasive mussels or other ANS; and

WHEREAS, Zebra and quagga mussels are highly invasive aquatic species that have negative effects on plankton communities, fisheries, and water-based recreation in Colorado and also threaten our water storage and distribution systems for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, Aquatic nuisance species pose a significant threat to the aquatic wildlife and aquatic wildlife habitats of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, In order to achieve the desired security of Colorado's water infrastructure and aquatic wildlife and their habitats, it is necessary to employ new, consistent, and cooperative funding mechanisms among all jurisdictions that own and manage waters in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Successfully implementing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife ANS Program, along with partner programs, is critical to maintaining opportunities for recreation, preserving natural resources, and protecting water supply and delivery infrastructure for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, Watercraft conveyances, including trailers and their compartments, are acknowledged as the primary overland vector of spread for zebra and quagga mussels and the transport of other ANS; and

WHEREAS, Any water retained in a watercraft increases the possibility of introducing ANS into new waters; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife coordinates the vast network of watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to protect waters and infrastructure from invasive species, including standardizing training and overseeing quality assurance; and

WHEREAS, Watercraft inspection and decontamination stations are operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the National Park Service, Larimer County, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, . and various municipalities and private industry locations including businesses, concessioners, marinas, clubs, and private lakes; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife monitors waters of the state for zebra and quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's watercraft inspection and decontamination program has prevented the introduction of these highly destructive

invasive species through the diligent efforts of watercraft inspectors and decontamination staff and through ongoing sampling, monitoring, education, and enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, Since 2009, more than 100 out-of-state watercraft with zebra or quagga mussels on them have been intercepted in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Colorado Parks and Wildlife intercepted a record number of infested out-of-state watercraft and decontaminated them prior to allowing them into state waters, and 2016 is on track to exceed the 2015 total; and

WHEREAS, Between 2008 and 2015, watercraft inspection and decontamination stations in Colorado collectively performed nearly 3,000,000 inspections and 46,628 decontaminations; and

WHEREAS, Some dam and reservoir operators in Colorado, such as Denver Water and the Colorado River Water Conservation District, regularly pay for watercraft inspection and decontamination prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Army Corps of Engineers both own and operate numerous at-risk reservoirs and dams in Colorado, and although they fund their own prevention efforts, they do not fund Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Most watercraft inspection and decontamination stations are operated by the recreational manager of a body of water or by a contracted private entity through the recreational manager; and

WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service (USFS) is the recreational manager of ten at-risk United States Bureau of Reclamation-owned reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, The USFS has eliminated almost all financial contribution to ANS watercraft inspection and decontamination prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, The USFS does not operate, or contract for the operations of, any watercraft inspection and decontamination stations in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife or local entities contract with private industry for watercraft inspection and decontamination operations on USFS-managed waters; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, urge the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, and the USFS to provide funding to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for implementation of the State of Colorado Zebra and Quagga Mussel Management Plan.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Commanding General and Chief of Engineering of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, and the members of Colorado's congressional delegation.

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