



"Serving Western Legislatures"

Resolution: 13-04

Resolution on Combating Aquatic Invasive Species

- WHEREAS,** aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a threat to both our environment and our economy; and
- WHEREAS,** an "invasive species" as defined in United States Federal Executive Order 13112 is "an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health;" and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Geological Survey has identified the six Western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah with the presence of zebra and/or quagga mussels, as well as a large presence in the Midwest and Great Lakes regions; and
- WHEREAS,** the spread of invasive species continues to be one of the country's biggest environmental problems and is causing economic and environmental damage throughout the states; and
- WHEREAS,** the Center for Invasive Species Research at the University of California, Riverside estimates that the cost of management of zebra mussel in the Great Lakes alone exceeds \$500 million a year and speaks to the extensive damage the introduction of an AIS can do to a water body; and
- WHEREAS,** American taxpayers and industry have incurred an estimated \$5 billion in prevention and control costs since introduction of quagga mussels to U.S. waters in 1986; and
- WHEREAS,** invasive species can easily spread if preventative actions such as boat inspections is not in place to prevent the accidental spread of invasive species from one area to another; and
- WHEREAS,** the AIS problem is larger than just one state or region and will require a concerted effort by both states and the federal government to prevent the spread of AIS, handle the current populations of AIS, and prevent the introduction of new AIS to the environment; and
- WHEREAS,** legislation including the Invasive Species Control and Management Act is being considered in the United States House of Representatives that would allocate \$1.4 billion to federal agencies to address invasive species, as well as provide \$154 million in grants to states to address invasive species at the state level; and
- WHEREAS,** AIS are a threat to endangered species and are known to crowd out the native endangered species as they compete for resources further complicating and harming attempts to protect endangered species; and
- RESOLVED,** that the Council of State Governments-WEST (CSG-WEST) urges the United States Government to address the threat of AIS; and
- RESOLVED,** that CSG-WEST urges the Congress to fund appropriate state and federal programs to undertake and prioritize science-based measures to control and prevent the spread of populations of AIS; and
- RESOLVED,** that CSG-WEST urges congress to take action to add quagga mussels to the national list of invasive species; and
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state and provincial officials.

Adopted this 2nd Day of August, 2013 at the 66th CSG-WEST Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV