

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO
JOINT RESOLUTION A**

LLS NO. R17-0118.01 Kurt Woock x4349

HOUSE Joint Resolution

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitsch Bush and Coram, Arndt, Becker J.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Baumgardner, Sonnenberg

Senate Committees

House Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Zebra and quagga mussels are highly invasive aquatic
10 species that have negative effects on plankton communities, fisheries, and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 water-based recreation in Colorado and also threaten our water storage
2 and distribution systems for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use;
3 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Watercraft inspection and decontamination stations
25 are operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the National Park Service,
26 Larimer County, and various municipalities and private industry locations
27 including businesses, concessioners, marinas, clubs, and private lakes;
28 and

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

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

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Between 2008 and 2015, watercraft inspection and
12 decontamination stations in Colorado collectively performed nearly
13 3,000,000 inspections and 46,628 decontaminations; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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