

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
2 ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
3 IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
4 HOUSES, ASSEMBLIES AND SENATES IN THE STATES OF MONTANA, WYOMING, UTAH,
5 NEVADA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, ARIZONA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO AND CALIFOR-
6 NIA, AND TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION.
7

8 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
9 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth
10 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

11 WHEREAS, eradication of invasive species is a matter of national con-
12 cern, transcending state lines; and

13 WHEREAS, the presence of quagga and zebra mussels, collectively re-
14 ferred to as dreissenid mussels, in the West is a matter of growing and
15 alarming concern; and

16 WHEREAS, the mussels were introduced into the Great Lakes in the 1980s
17 by watercraft from the shipping industry through ballast water and adhesion
18 to watercraft, having originated in Eastern Europe near the Black Sea, and
19 now having spread to 32 states, including a discovery of larvae in Montana in
20 November 2016; and

21 WHEREAS, in her five-year lifetime, a single quagga or zebra mussel will
22 produce about 5 million eggs, 100,000 of which reach adulthood. The off-
23 spring of a single mussel will in turn produce a total of half a billion adult
24 offspring; and

25 WHEREAS, mussels spread, in large part, by attaching to exposed hard
26 surfaces of watercraft, as well as ballast water discharges, and being
27 transported from water body to water body, many times across state lines, and
28 many western states have now enacted laws to establish watercraft inspection
29 programs to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels to unaffected
30 waters; and

31 WHEREAS, it is estimated that mussel introduction into the State of
32 Idaho would cost Idaho approximately \$94 million per year. This figure
33 does not include agriculture-related impacts, which would be devastating to
34 the state, but reflects the impact to hydroelectric facilities, recreation
35 areas, fish hatcheries, golf courses, intake valves for drinking water fa-
36 cilities and irrigation facilities; and

37 WHEREAS, federal action, and federal regulations, are necessary to
38 address decontamination policies for those infested federal waters in the
39 West; and

40 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho seeks to foster cooperative efforts between
41 the western states and the federal government for the establishment of a co-
42 ordinated effort to prevent, to whatever extent possible, through efforts
43 including inspections, decontamination policies, enforcement of invasive

1 species laws and rapid response protocols, further spread of the mussels,
2 and containment where established, until such time as viable tools for erad-
3 ication are discovered.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
5 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
6 and the Senate concurring therein, that we encourage western states and the
7 federal government to establish cooperative and coordinated efforts with
8 the State of Idaho to prevent, to whatever extent possible, through efforts
9 including inspections, decontamination policies, enforcement of invasive
10 species laws and rapid response protocols, further spread of the mussels,
11 and containment where established, until such time as viable tools for erad-
12 ication are discovered.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Represen-
14 tatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of
15 this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing
17 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, to the leadership of
18 the houses, assemblies and senates in the states of Montana, Wyoming, Utah,
19 Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and California,
20 and to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.