

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING THE FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE RESOLVING THAT THE STATE OF IDAHO AND
3 ITS CITIZENS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE THREAT OF AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES
4 AND WILL COLLECTIVELY STRIVE TO EDUCATE AND PREVENT THE CONTAMINATION
5 OF IDAHO'S PUBLIC LAKES, STREAMS, RIVERS AND CREEKS, AND ENCOURAGE IN-
6 DUSTRY AND RECREATIONISTS AROUND THE WORLD TO BE AWARE THAT IDAHO TAKES
7 THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE ITS NATURAL RESOURCES VERY
8 SERIOUSLY.

9 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

10 WHEREAS, according to the National Invasive Species Council, while pre-
11 vention is the first line of defense, even the best prevention efforts will
12 not stop all invasive species. Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) ef-
13 forts increase the likelihood that invasions will be halted and eradicated,
14 but once a species becomes widely established, the only action possible is
15 the partial mitigation of negative impacts; and

16 WHEREAS, Idaho is blessed with world-renowned "blue-ribbon" streams,
17 rivers and lakes. These waters have profound economic impact to our state,
18 bringing international fishermen, kayakers, gold miners and all types of
19 other recreationists. These natural resources are being used and enjoyed by
20 countless numbers of people, and we must now recognize the need for further
21 vigilance to protect these valuable resources. The impacts of droughts,
22 overfishing, water depletion, power production and other uses have been, and
23 will continue to be, managed by city, county, state and federal agencies in
24 cooperation with a vast array of member organizations; and

25 WHEREAS, Idaho has taken action to protect our waters by the creation of
26 the Idaho Invasive Species Council and the enactment of laws to prevent de-
27 terioration of our natural resources. The council is a multiagency organi-
28 zation that provides direction and planning for combating invasive species
29 throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of other species
30 that may be potentially harmful. Included in the council are state and fed-
31 eral entities, local government organizations, tribal governments, Idaho
32 universities and private and not-for-profit organizations with an interest
33 in invasive species; and

34 WHEREAS, aquatic nuisance species are aquatic and terrestrial organ-
35 isms that could be introduced into new habitats throughout Idaho and other
36 areas of the United States and the world. They have the potential to produce
37 harmful impacts on aquatic natural resources in these ecosystems and on the
38 human use of these resources. The invasive species can be transported into
39 Idaho waters by boats, waders, felt sole boots and a vast assortment of other
40 recreational and commercial equipment. Felt soles absorb water and carry
41 aquatic nuisance species and other fish killing species, such as, didymo,
42 New Zealand mud snails and whirling disease. Felt soles are used because of
43 their ability to cling or hold fast to slippery rocks and boulders in streams

1 and creeks. They absorb water because of their manufactured properties and
2 thus have the potential to become a host and breeding ground for, as well
3 as a carrier of, aquatic nuisance species. Felt sole boots and waders that
4 are used by fishermen, hunters, government agencies and other recreation-
5 ists are not the sole source material that can cause the spreading of these
6 harmful species; and

7 WHEREAS, to date, Idaho fishermen, boaters and the general public have
8 been served by notification of new Idaho invasive species laws and ongo-
9 ing information and educational advertising campaigns, roadside invasive
10 species check stations, and the prevention programs of the Idaho Department
11 of Agriculture and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and

12 WHEREAS, the purpose of this concurrent resolution is to bring greater
13 attention to the harmful and catastrophic potential threat of invasive
14 species by providing additional awareness, encouragement and education
15 to its citizens and industry. Idaho's waters are vitally important to our
16 citizens and the nation and we will strive to protect them for the long-term
17 health and benefit of all; and

18 WHEREAS, Idaho congratulates those fishing tackle manufacturers that
19 offer alternatives to felt soles, for their foresight and efforts to offer
20 products that reduce the threat and potential transfer of aquatic nuisance
21 species. Other manufacturers, both domestic and foreign, are encouraged to
22 engineer, develop, manufacture and sell similar products that reduce and/or
23 help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
25 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
26 resentatives concurring therein, that the state of Idaho and its citizens
27 are concerned with the threat of aquatic nuisance species. Collectively,
28 we will strive to educate and prevent the contamination of our public lakes,
29 streams, rivers and creeks and encourage industry and recreationists around
30 the world to be aware that Idaho takes the responsibility to protect and pre-
31 serve its natural resources very seriously.