

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Memorializes the 2017 session of the Nevada legislature to enact legislation that will ensure the reduction of zebra and quagga mussel populations through integrated aquatic invasive species (AIS) management in Lake Mead and Lake Tahoe collectively by 20% by 2025.

WHEREAS, The zebra mussel and quagga mussel have imposed significant economic and environmental damage to the State of Nevada through reducing biodiversity, mitigating oxygen levels in the regional water supply, and clogging water pipes near Lake Mead and Lake Tahoe; and

WHEREAS, According to the Nevada Aquatic Management Plan, “the discovery of aquatic invasive quagga mussels in Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) in 2007 was an important point in AIS management in Nevada”; and

WHEREAS, The pervasiveness of zebra and quagga mussels in the Colorado River system has imposed an economic cost of approximately \$1 million annually towards the control of the aforementioned invasive species; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the capacity to address invasive mussels in the state of Nevada would allow program effectiveness to outweigh management costs through the following channels: (1) mandatory inspection and decontamination at infested waters, (2) development of effective watercraft inspection and decontamination protocols and standards, (3) standard and effective equipment inspection and decontamination protocols, (4) standard watercraft and equipment inspection and decontamination protocols in Western States, (5) strong, consistent law enforcement programs in western states, (6) standardized model and strategy for risk assessment model for water bodies; and

WHEREAS, Integrated aquatic invasive species (AIS) management in Nevada would mitigate quagga and zebra mussel populations through a series of regular invasive species control mechanisms inclusive of prevention, early-detection monitoring, rapid response, containment and control of existing populations, and outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, Lack of high management priority and comprehensive/integrated pest management through existing aquatic invasive species legislation has propagated the habituation of zebra and quagga mussels in native landscape of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The *Protecting Lakes against Quaggas (PLAQ) Act* recognized quagga mussels as an invasive species under the Lacey Act, but did not propose a mechanism to reduce invading populations; and

WHEREAS, The State and Interstate ANS Management Plan Funding and Quagga-Zebra Mussel Plan Implementation is a piece of legislation deemed “highest priority action item,” yet is it up to the state’s discretion to capitalize on an integrated aquatic invasive species management plan under other provisions of the Lacey Act; therefore it be

RESOLVED BY THE GIRL STATE OF NEVADA, assembled in Carson City on June 30, 2017, that the 2019 session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation that will decrease the abundance of invading populations of zebra and quagga mussels by 20%, collectively in Lake Mead and Lake Tahoe, in order to bolster regional aquatic diversity, return oxygen levels in the regional water supply to proper levels, and protect aquatic infrastructure in the State of Nevada.