

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, THE SECRE-  
2 TARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGRESS, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
4 REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
5

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

9 WHEREAS, Dreissenid mussels, specifically quagga mussels (*Dreis-*  
10 *sena rostriformis bugensis*) and zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), are  
11 aquatic invasive species that cause irreparable ecological damage to many  
12 waters in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, we are requesting \$8 million in federal matching funding for FY  
14 2018 to combat the immediate threat of invasive quagga and zebra mussels to  
15 the Pacific Northwest region. Until recently, the Pacific Northwest region  
16 remained one of the only regions in North America without invasive quagga and  
17 zebra mussels. In November 2016, invasive mussel larvae were detected at  
18 Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Tiber Reservoir, located in Montana, and part of  
19 the Missouri River system. In response, Montana Governor Steve Bullock de-  
20 clared a natural resources state of emergency; and

21 WHEREAS, further spread of these invasive mussels will have a devastat-  
22 ing and far-reaching impact on the economic and environmental wellbeing of  
23 the entire region. If invasive mussel populations become established in the  
24 Pacific Northwest, they will cost the region \$500 million a year, so it is vi-  
25 tal that we work together to ensure that the invasive mussels do not make the  
26 short trip across the Continental Divide and into the Columbia River system.  
27 Failing to ensure this would not only result in Idaho water bodies becoming  
28 infested with quagga and zebra mussels, but the rest of the Columbia River  
29 Basin and region as well; and

30 WHEREAS, for these reasons, we ask Congress to appropriate \$8 million  
31 of the authorized \$20 million for FY 2018 to the four Northwest states of  
32 Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, according to the Water Infrastruc-  
33 ture Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), which includes the Water Re-  
34 sources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA). The \$8 million in federal matching  
35 funding would be used to enhance funds already allocated by the states for  
36 watercraft inspection and decontamination stations with the purpose of pro-  
37 tecting the Columbia River Basin against invasive mussels. Now that inva-  
38 sive mussel larvae have been found in Montana, federal assistance is key to  
39 ensuring that the Columbia River Basin system is protected and that invasive  
40 mussels do not spread to the rest of the region; and

41 WHEREAS, we appreciate the funding that Congress appropriated under the  
42 Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) and WIIN to assist  
43 the four Northwest states. The emergency in Montana highlights the constant

1 and ongoing threat of invasive mussels to the region, and the importance of  
2 the states' continued receipt of federal matching funding to support their  
3 efforts to protect against these aquatic invaders. Therefore, we respect-  
4 fully ask that you consider our request and take the necessary steps to en-  
5 sure that federal funds are appropriated to the four Northwest states in FY  
6 2018.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
8 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
9 the Senate concurring therein, that we urge Congress to appropriate \$8 mil-  
10 lion of the authorized \$20 million for FY 2018 to the four Northwest states of  
11 Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, according to the Water Infrastruc-  
12 ture Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), which includes the Water Re-  
13 sources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA). The \$8 million in federal matching  
14 funding will be used to enhance funds already allocated by the states for wa-  
15 tercraft inspection and decontamination stations with the purpose of pro-  
16 tecting the Columbia River Basin against invasive mussels. Now that inva-  
17 sive mussel larvae have been found in Montana, federal assistance is key to  
18 ensuring that the Columbia River Basin system is protected and that invasive  
19 mussels do not spread to the rest of the region.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
21 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
22 Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army,  
23 the Secretary of the Interior, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
24 the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delega-  
25 tion representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.