



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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July 18, 2013

Honorable Joe Heck
U.S. House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Heck:

In response to the domestic invasion of quagga mussels, American taxpayers and industry have incurred an estimated \$5 billion in prevention and control costs since introduction of the species to U.S. waters in 1986. Accordingly, I am writing to communicate the support of the Western Governors' Association for H.R. 1823, the "Protecting Lakes Against Quaggas Act of 2013."

The proposed measure would add quagga mussels to the national list of invasive species covered under the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42). This would invest federal and state authorities with an important tool for containing and eradicating quagga mussels by providing for increased inspections of boats crossing state lines. Such inspections for zebra mussels already occur.

Inspection and decontamination of quagga-fouled watercraft represents a common-sense approach to containment of this invasive species. To the extent that H.R. 1823 authorizes and facilitates deployment of these efforts, it represents an important defense against proliferation of the quagga mussel throughout the West.

Western Governors appreciate your efforts to craft common-sense solutions to the insidious problem of invasive species and look forward to working with you in support of H.R. 1823.

Sincerely,

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Mark Amodei
Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
Honorable Paul Gosar
Honorable Raul Grijalva
Honorable Denny Heck
Honorable Steven Horsford
Honorable Jared Huffman
Honorable Derek Kilmer
Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
Honorable Rick Larsen

Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
Honorable Jim Matheson
Honorable Grace Napolitano
Honorable Steve Pearce
Honorable David Reichert
Honorable Michael Simpson
Honorable Mike Thompson
Honorable Greg Walden
Honorable Henry Waxman