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Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2019

Senator Michael Bennet

Section 2: Bureau of Reclamation Assistance

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to provide financial assistance to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The assistance requires a cost-share from state or local governments and priority will be given to projects that emphasize prevention, align with state priorities, or align with the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters.

Section 3: Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Authority

This section provides each federal agency that is a member of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force with the authority to inspect and decontaminate watercraft and, as necessary, impound, quarantine, or otherwise prevent entry to limit the movement of aquatic invasive species into and out of U.S. waters. This section adds the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation as members of the ANS Task Force and updates the statute to acknowledge the importance maintaining our water infrastructure. Finally, this Section requires the ANS Task Force to report back within 90 days on other legislative or regulatory changes that may be necessary to effectively manage and limit the movement of aquatic invasive species.

Section 4: Technical Corrections

This section contains minor changes that are necessary following successful passage of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The first change makes the Arkansas River Basin eligible for watercraft inspection station funding, which was the intention of the 2018 WRDA bill. The second change clarifies that the U.S. Army Corps shall consult not only with the states, but also with tribes and other federal agencies when establishing inspection stations. Last, this section makes it clear that “decontamination” is an appropriate activity at watercraft inspection stations.