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**Resolution of the Midwestern Governors Association  
Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species**

**October, 2013**

- Whereas: invasive species cause significant economic losses and dramatic ecological changes; and
- Whereas: the National Invasive Species Information Center estimated that these species, cause at least \$138 billion annually in damages and reduced production; and
- Whereas: given the combined significance of the region's aquatic ecosystems, its agricultural sector, recreation and tourism economy, expansive forestlands and vast rural areas, invasive species threaten Midwestern natural resources and economic vitality; and
- Whereas: aquatic invasive species know no boundaries, jurisdiction or authority, with cities, counties, states, the private sector, and international organizations all having significant roles to play in the introduction, containment and eradication of invasive species; and
- Whereas: the Midwest is connected by a large network of waterways and ports, which are vital to state economies and in the movement of energy, people and products; and
- Whereas: current individual state efforts to address aquatic invasive species are limited in their effectiveness due to the regional nature of invasive species; and
- Whereas: regional collaboration offers an opportunity for states to leverage financial, personnel and educational research; now therefore, be it
- Resolved: that the governors of the states of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA), support increased regional collaboration to address aquatic invasive species; and be it
- Resolved: that the MGA will help coordinate best practices among state agencies and agencies' contractors in order to help implement those lessons learned throughout the region; and be it
- Resolved: that the Midwestern governors will direct state agencies and their related contractors to adhere to the same policies and recommendations they provide to the public; and be it
- Resolved: that state secretaries or commissioners of natural resources (or those agencies with jurisdiction related to aquatic invasive species) will meet in Washington, D.C. in late 2013 with their federal counterparts to ensure productive state-federal collaboration; and be it further
- Resolved: that governors will encourage agencies to coordinate state external communication efforts, campaigns, promotional products, public service announcements, and slogans across the region to eliminate redundancies and better extend limited financial resources.