

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Joe Stell

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STATEWIDE TO IMPLEMENT
A NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM TO PROTECT THE STATE'S
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY FROM NOXIOUS AND EXOTIC WEED
INFESTATIONS.

WHEREAS, noxious and exotic weeds have invaded other
states and are impinging on New Mexico's natural environment
and agriculturally productive and valuable lands and will
have significant and potentially disastrous consequences if
not controlled early; and

WHEREAS, noxious and exotic weeds cause damage to
wildlife habitat, poison grazing animals and browsers,
displace native grasses, destroy native ecosystems, reduce
biological diversity, increase soil erosion, alter hydrologic
function and water production and cause extensive damage to

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 agricultural economies; and

2 WHEREAS, more than thirty species of noxious and exotic
3 weeds have invaded New Mexico, including leafy spurge,
4 starthistle, camelthorn, saltcedar and Russian knapweed; and

5 WHEREAS, leafy spurge has caused one hundred twenty-nine
6 million dollars (\$129,000,000) in damage in four northern
7 great plains states and is invading four counties in New
8 Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, starthistle has infested twenty million acres
10 in California and about one thousand acres so far in New
11 Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, camelthorn has appeared in several areas of New
13 Mexico and is spreading into the middle Rio Grande area; and

14 WHEREAS, Russian knapweed releases a natural herbicide
15 that kills native plants growing near infested areas, kills
16 horses and other domestic animals and is now found in
17 nineteen New Mexico counties; and

18 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture and
19 soil and water conservation districts are developing
20 voluntary weed control programs to avoid an exponential
21 expansion in infested acreage in the next ten years;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of
24 agriculture and the soil and water conservation districts
25 statewide be requested to implement a noxious weed control
program to protect the state's environment and economy from
noxious and exotic weed infestations; and

.131304.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and the soil and water conservation districts statewide.

- 3 -