1   _____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

2   INTRODUCED BY _____

3   (Primary Sponsor)

4   A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF

5   MONTANA DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK IN JUNE AS NOXIOUS WEED AWARENESS WEEK.

6

7   WHEREAS, noxious weeds are defined by Montana law as "any exotic plant species established or

8   that may be introduced in the state that may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other

9   beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities"; and

10   WHEREAS, pathways for the spread of invasive noxious weeds are many and varied, involving both

11   accidental and intentional introductions, and could be reduced by increased awareness of the dangers posed

12   by even seemingly innocuous plants that are transplanted to a different ecosystem; and

13   WHEREAS, invasive plants may spread aggressively and outcompete native plants and reduce overall

14   native community biodiversity, and invasive plants can affect wildlife by altering the availability of food or

15   nesting habitat; and

16   WHEREAS, prevention is far less expensive than trying to remove species after they arrive; and

17   WHEREAS, an educated and aware public is highly effective at detecting species early; and

18   WHEREAS, public agencies, land stewards, and citizens' groups in Montana can join to stop the

19   spread of invasive noxious weeds and restore lands and watersheds to a healthy state for their intended use.

20

21   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

22   THE STATE OF MONTANA:

23   That the first full week in June be recognized as Noxious Weed Awareness Week.

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the

25   Governor, to the directors of the Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Department of Natural

26   Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and to the county

27   commission of each county in Montana.

28

1   - END -

*Legislative
Services
Division*