

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MARLER, W. CURDY, R. FITZGERALD, T. FRANCE, S. GALLOWAY, S. GIST, R.

3 KNUDSEN, M. MALONE, B. PUTNAM, K. WALSH

4  
5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
6 MONTANA DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK IN JUNE AS NOXIOUS WEED AWARENESS WEEK.7  
8 WHEREAS, noxious weeds are defined by Montana law as "any exotic plant species established or  
9 that may be introduced in the state that may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other  
10 beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities"; and11 WHEREAS, pathways for the spread of invasive noxious weeds are many and varied, involving both  
12 accidental and intentional introductions, and could be reduced by increased awareness of the dangers posed  
13 by even seemingly innocuous plants that are transplanted to a different ecosystem; and14 WHEREAS, invasive plants may spread aggressively and outcompete native plants and reduce overall  
15 native community biodiversity, and invasive plants can affect wildlife by altering the availability of food or  
16 nesting habitat; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, public agencies, land stewards, and citizens' groups in Montana can join to stop the  
20 spread of invasive noxious weeds and restore lands and watersheds to a healthy state for their intended use.21  
22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
23 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the  
26 Governor, to the directors of the Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Department of Natural  
27 Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and to the county  
28 commission of each county in Montana.

1

2

- END -