

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior environment, and
Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

As the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies considers priorities for the FY23 appropriations bill, I write to request that you include at least \$15 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to implement the Invasive Species in Alpine Lakes Pilot Program.

Authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260), the pilot program would develop and carry out effective measures for preventing, controlling, and eradicating aquatic invasive species in alpine lakes outside of the National Park System. Unfortunately, the program has yet to receive any funding.

The federal government owns and manages approximately 78 percent of the lands within the Tahoe watershed which is home of the largest alpine lake in North America. This makes the ongoing federal role at Lake Tahoe both appropriate and vital for the region's \$5 billion tourism-based economy.

Removing aquatic invasive species (AIS) from Lake Tahoe, along with preventing other invasive species from establishing a presence in the basin, is one of the region's highest funding priorities. Federal funding has helped implement a prevention program consisting of mandatory boat inspection and decontamination stations, successful Asian clam pilot eradication projects, invasive plant control projects, and the creation of an early detection and rapid response program.

I strongly urge you to support at least \$15 million for the USFWS Invasive Species in Alpine Lakes Pilot Program in the Fiscal Year 2023 Interior Appropriations bill which will enhance the current state and local efforts to protect Lake Tahoe from aquatic invasive species. I appreciate your attention to this request.

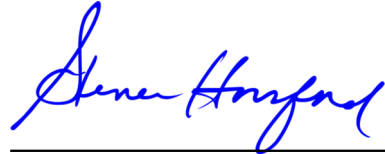
Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress