State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State enjoys rich and varied lands and waters inhabited by abundant species of plants, trees, and wildlife that enhance our State's air and water quality, contribute to the overall environmental balance, support a robust agricultural industry, beautify recreational destinations, and add to property values and local economies; and

Whereas, the quality of our lands and waters is at risk from harmful invasive species which have been introduced to New York State and continue to spread, harming the environment, the economy, and human health; invasive species are those which are non-native to a region and can come from around the world and, as international trade increases, so does the rate of invasive species introductions; and

Whereas, invasive species are one of the greatest threats to New York's biodiversity and its bionetwork, causing or contributing to: habitat degradation and loss; loss of native fish, wildlife, and tree species; loss of recreational opportunities and income; crop damage and diseases in humans and livestock; and

Whereas, efforts are being undertaken in New York State, in partnership with private and nonprofit organizations, universities, and local, state and federal agencies, to reduce the specific risks of harmful invasive species to the State's natural resources, economy, and human health; and

Whereas, New Yorkers share a concern for the safety and well-being of our environment, and support initiatives through which we can illustrate our ongoing commitment to the State's precious natural resources and cherished lands and waters which reflect our noble heritage and have a meaningful impact upon the quality of life and economic prosperity of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, increased awareness and understanding about the need to stop the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species are important to the future of New York State, and residents and visitors alike are encouraged to learn more about these invasive species and their damaging environmental, societal, and economic impact on New York State, the nation, and the entire world; and

Whereas, summer marks the high season of tourism, boating, camping and agricultural productivity in New York State and Invasive Species Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all to express support for the goals of this observance and to extend appreciation to the agencies, businesses, environmental groups, academic institutions, community organizations, and volunteers that are taking action against the spread of invasive species;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the week of July 6-12, 2014 as

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of July in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor