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 even 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: the degradation and loss of habitat; the loss of native fish, wildlife, and tree species; the loss of recreational opportunities and income; damage to and loss of crops; the occurrence of 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 an ongoing commitment to our precious natural resources, cherished lands, and waters that impact and contribute positively to the quality of life and economic prosperity of residents and communities in every corner of this State; 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 planet; 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 June 7-13, 2020 as the seventh annual

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 first day of June in the year two thousand twenty.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa