

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 749

By Coleman

A RESOLUTION designating February 22-27, 2010, as "Invasive Weed Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Tennessee must routinely manage pest plant species that are not native to the state and are both injurious and costly to the management of our state's natural areas, wildlands, farmlands, managed forests, recreation areas and parks, and home landscapes; and

WHEREAS, invasive pest plant species are expensive, with substantial costs incurred by private landowners, small businesses, and state and federal agencies as a consequence of losses in crops, timber sales, and grazing and foraging across Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, invasions by pest plant species result in significant decreases in biodiversity; invasion of habitat by exotic pest plant species is one of the primary reasons cited for endangerment of rare species, as community structure and ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, fire regimes, and hydrology are altered when pest plant species are introduced; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee recreational groups, government and industry, educational institutions and entities, land trusts, conservation organizations, nurseries, botanic gardens, and gardening groups acknowledge the economic and environmental dangers posed to their continued economic and social well-being by the presence of invasive pest plants; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee government agencies, private sector entities, and conservation groups strongly support implementation of all aspects of integrated weed management; and

WHEREAS, National Invasive Species Awareness Week is observed annually in Washington, D.C. as a means to bring together groups from across the country to focus attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to support the efforts of concerned citizens throughout our State and Nation by specially recognizing this worthy observance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate February 22-27, 2010, as "Invasive Weed Awareness Week" in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to increase their awareness of the economic and environmental dangers posed by the presence of invasive pest plant species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.