## STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATIO

## AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK MAY 15-21, 2022

WHEREAS, aquatic nuisance species in North Dakota may threaten the environment, public health, property and the economy; and

WHEREAS, aquatic nuisance species in North Dakota have experienced an increase in distribution over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, public health concerns, harm to recreational fisheries, negative impacts on communities and adverse effects on water supplies can be greatly reduced if appropriate preventative measures are taken by water recreationists, pet owners, municipalities, private contractors and waterfront property owners; and

WHEREAS, residents, tourists and contractors utilizing watercraft are encouraged to clean, drain and dry all equipment, every time to ensure best practices are exhibited; and

WHEREAS, docks, lifts and other water-based equipment should be thoroughly inspected for aquatic nuisance species and dried before transport between waterbodies; and

WHEREAS, further information and guidance regarding aquatic nuisance species is provided by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department; and

WHEREAS, Aquatic Nuisance Species Awareness Week is intended to further educate North Dakotans on the potential risk to public health, property and the economy from the negative impacts associated with aquatic nuisance species, to encourage the public to implement preventative measures to control the spread of invasive species, and to empower communities to demonstrate best practices among all citizens of North Dakota to protect our water resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 15-21, 2022, AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK in the State of North Dakota.

> Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE