



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
April 6, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved and vetoed, the following House Bill, to wit:

H274a

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:05 p.m. on March 31, 2017.

There is broad agreement in the Legislature and among everyone interested in protecting Idaho rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, as well as related infrastructure, that preventing an infestation of invasive quagga or zebra mussels must be among our top natural resources priorities. Count me among those for whom the fight against these and other invasive species is of paramount importance.

My veto of House Bill 274a is only about the manner in which we address the challenge. Our focus must be on putting more boots on the ground to enhance the successful boat inspection and decontamination program run by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). I appreciate the Legislature increasing ISDA's budget to do just that. However, this legislation creating a new position within my office to coordinate our efforts does little to improve our defenses and preparedness for the potentially devastating impact of a mussel infestation.

Therefore, with this veto I also am issuing Executive Order 2017-05, formally continuing the work of Idaho's Invasive Species Council. This interagency panel is tasked with developing and maintaining a coordinated approach among local, state, federal and tribal entities, as well as private and non-profit organizations, for preventing and controlling invasive species threats.

The Council, led by ISDA, also is responsible for outreach and education efforts for our communities and regional partners. Indeed, more states and local jurisdictions throughout the region are awakening to the pressing need for cooperative efforts toward prevention and management of the threat. But that means intensifying the work of our Invasive Species Council – not adding more bureaucracy.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho