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May 4, 2011

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The Honorable Christine Kehoe  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 215 (Huff) – Support**

Dear Senator Kehoe:


On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), we strongly support SB 215, which would extend the sunset date for the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) dreissenid mussel eradication program to 2017.

Without the passage of SB 215, DFG's dreissenid mussel enforcement program will expire January 2012. These mussels pose a major threat to California's aquatic food web. They are a destructive invasive species that reproduce and spread quickly. Their establishment in California waters, including the already stressed California Bay-Delta, could result in an environmental disaster.

For these reasons, California reservoir operators and DFG will continue to need this eradication program for the foreseeable future.

Please vote "aye" on this important measure.

Sincerely,

  
John Kingsbury  
Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Board of Directors, MCWRA  
Jennifer West, Director of Water, CMUA