

House Engrossed

urging eradication; salt cedars; waterways

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2006

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE MONIES AND FEDERAL ENTITIES TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO ERADICATE SALT CEDARS IN ARIZONA WATERWAYS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America, the Secretary of the
2 United States Department of the Interior and the Secretary of the
3 United States Department of Agriculture:

4 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

5 Whereas, the salt cedar tree, also known as the tamarisk, was
6 brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant to
7 stabilize soil and control erosion; and

8 Whereas, salt cedars are now listed as an invasive species by the
9 United States Department of Agriculture; and

10 Whereas, salt cedars spread prolifically by both seed and sprouting,
11 congesting thousands of acres of river land in Arizona; and

12 Whereas, the density of salt cedars creates dangerous conditions by
13 congesting flood-prone areas, impeding water flow and exacerbating the
14 impact of flooding; and

15 Whereas, by increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires,
16 salt cedars threaten existing and future infrastructure in surrounding
17 communities; and

18 Whereas, this invasive plant out-competes native cottonwood,
19 mesquite and willow and displaces riparian and other wildlife habitats by
20 altering the ecology and hydrology of native systems; and

21 Whereas, each salt cedar tree consumes 200 to 300 gallons of water a
22 day, which lowers the water table and creates large deposits of salt in
23 the soil; and

24 Whereas, salt cedars negatively impact Arizona's economy by
25 jeopardizing agriculture due to high water usage, tending to obstruct
26 irrigation canals and limiting recreational opportunities; and

27 Whereas, eliminating salt cedars will sustain precious water
28 supplies, reduce the risk of environmental disasters and minimize
29 structural and ecological damage and loss of life.

30 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
31 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

32 1. That the United States Congress appropriate monies to the State
33 of Arizona to eradicate salt cedars from Arizona waterways.

34 2. That the United States Department of the Interior and the United
35 States Department of Agriculture develop innovative solutions to control
36 the proliferation of salt cedars.

37 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
38 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the
39 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
40 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
41 the Interior, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture
42 and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.