

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4603

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a demonstration program with respect to the golden mussel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2026

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a demonstration program with respect to the golden mussel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Golden Mussel Eradi-
5 cation and Control Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. GOLDEN MUSSEL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

7 Section 1202 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance
8 Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722) is
9 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as
2 subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(j) GOLDEN MUSSEL DEMONSTRATION PRO-
6 GRAM.—

7 “(1) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force, in
9 partnership with State and local entities, port
10 authorities, industry partners, institutions of
11 higher education, and local nonprofit organiza-
12 tions, shall develop a demonstration program of
13 prevention, monitoring, control, eradication,
14 education, and research with respect to the
15 golden mussel, including—

16 “(i) research and development regard-
17 ing—

18 “(I) the biology;

19 “(II) the environmental toler-
20 ances;

21 “(III) the effect on—

22 “(aa) fisheries;

23 “(bb) water quality; and

24 “(cc) other ecosystem com-
25 ponents; and

1 “(IV) the efficacy of control
2 mechanisms and technologies;

3 “(ii) tracking dispersal and establish-
4 ment of an early warning system to alert
5 likely areas of future infestations;

6 “(iii) development of control and
7 eradication methods and plans, including—

8 “(I) in and around—

9 “(aa) derelict vessels;

10 “(bb) public infrastructure;

11 “(cc) fish screens; and

12 “(dd) waterways; and

13 “(II) hull inspections; and

14 “(iv) provision of technical assistance
15 to regional, State and local entities to
16 carry out this subsection, as applicable.

17 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION AREA.—The dem-
18 onstration program shall be implemented in the
19 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and any other
20 waters of the United States the Task Force de-
21 termines are infested, or likely to become in-
22 fested, by the golden mussel.

23 “(C) AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN INFORMA-
24 TION.—The Task Force shall collect and make
25 available to State and local entities and port

1 authorities, through direct reports, publications,
2 and other means necessary, information relating
3 to control and eradication methods and plans
4 developed under the demonstration program.

5 “(D) CONTROL AND ERADICATION GUIDE-
6 LINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
7 the enactment of this subsection, the Task
8 Force shall develop guidelines to control the
9 spread of and eradicate the golden mussel, in-
10 cluding through the establishment of watercraft
11 inspection stations.

12 “(2) RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT RESEARCH
13 GRANT PROGRAM.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
15 establish a grant program to award amounts,
16 on a competitive basis, to State and local enti-
17 ties, institutions of higher education, nonprofit
18 organizations, and industry partners to carry
19 out projects that—

20 “(i) identify effective technologies and
21 mechanisms to control and remove golden
22 mussels from—

23 “(I) water intakes;

24 “(II) conveyance infrastructure;

25 “(III) fish screens;

1 “(IV) derelict vessels;
2 “(V) boat hulls;
3 “(VI) waterways; or
4 “(VII) other areas where the
5 golden mussel may be found; or
6 “(ii) provide an understanding of the
7 biology of the golden mussel and effective
8 containment science with respect to the
9 golden mussel.

10 “(B) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—In car-
11 rying out the grant program, the Task Force
12 may enter into an agreement with a State or
13 local entity, port authority, industry partner, or
14 any other appropriate entity for the use or sale
15 of any new technology developed under the
16 grant program to expedite the control and
17 eradication of golden mussels.

18 “(3) COORDINATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The demonstration
20 program shall provide guidance to other Fed-
21 eral agencies, States, port authorities for all
22 United States ports of entry, local government
23 agencies, and regional and other entities with
24 the necessary expertise to participate in control

and eradication methods and plans developed pursuant to the demonstration program.

“(B) DELEGATION.—The Task Force may delegate responsibility for implementing all or a portion of a control or eradication method or plan developed pursuant to the demonstration program to an entity described in subparagraph (A) if the Task Force determines—

“(i) such entity has sufficient authority or jurisdiction and expertise; and

“(ii) it will be more efficient or effective to delegate such responsibility than to retain such responsibility.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Task Force to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘demonstration program’ means the demonstration program developed under paragraph (1)(A).

“(B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ‘grant program’ means the grant program established under paragraph (2)(A).

1 “(C) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
2 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-
3 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
4 tion 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of
5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).”.

