

# Proposed Legislation

## Long term funding providing for continued control of invasive plants in riparian areas and waters of Nebraska

- ▶ Nebraska has a total of 81,573 miles of rivers and streams as documented in the US EPA state report not accounting for small tributaries.
- ▶ These waterways are classified as 'waters of the state' and fall under state jurisdiction as free flowing water.
- ▶ Over the past two decades numerous invasive plant species have invaded waterways causing great concern by forming thick monocultures that displace native vegetation.
- ▶ Invasive plants highly degrade waterways by severely constricting flow conveyance and have high levels of water consumption.
- ▶ This high level of water consumption reduces the amount of available water for beneficial uses such as habitat for fish and wildlife, water for grazing animals, irrigation uses, hydroelectric production and municipality uses.
- ▶ Invasive plants reduce available habitat for game and non-game animals, threatened and endangered species.

