

HB 411 Talking Points

- HB 411 ensures vital AIS programs will continue. Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to fight AIS. This is especially true for invasive mussels, which, once established, are nearly impossible to eradicate. AIS outreach is working in Montana – we need it to continue.
- HB 411 provides *reliable* funding for AIS programs by including hydropower as well as other revenue sources to help keep Montana mussel free.
- HB 411 funds solutions that *make sense*. Large hydropower companies oppose this bill and argue that ratepayers will suffer when prevention costs are passed along to consumers. But infestation and eradication are much, much more expensive. Just ask ratepayers in the many states where invasive mussels have already taken hold. HB 411 ensures we all pitch in now before the problem is too big to stop.
- HB 411 brings additional resources to the AIS battle by allowing Montana to use some of the federal funds it receives to improve AIS operations where they're needed most: at Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs, still the only waterbodies in Montana where evidence of invasive mussels has been detected.