

From: [Lei B](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Support HB 335
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 11:04:52 AM

Respected Committee Members,

As an Alaska resident, I respectfully urge you to support improved evacuation planning by advancing HB 335.

Last year's typhoon exposed serious problems with evacuating pets during natural disasters. HB 335 addresses these problems at NO cost to the state.

I work in healthcare and while supporting the evacuated families, I heard countless stories of concern for their pets. As a mental health counselor, I cannot stress enough how invaluable pets are to people's well being. We know that not infrequently, people will wait until a dire situation or until it is too late to evacuate because they are trying to find a way to keep their pets with them.

Another concern that goes in line with evacuating pets is allowing for them to stay with their people when they are relocated. The Alaskan Red Cross does not allow pets to be with families in congregate housing. PETS Act (2006) has funds to assist local animal shelters and organizations to help out, but local animal welfare organizations are already maxed out on facilities and staffing. This has been addressed in other states already. Maine has county-based tasked teams to assist but they ensure shelters aren't overflooded in the first place.

HB 335 is modeled after existing evacuation frameworks in Florida, Louisiana, and Washington. By more intentionally incorporating pets into disaster planning, this bill will help families with pets stay together during mandatory evacuations — improving public safety and the safety of first responders along the way.

Alaskans take care of each other and we take pride in stepping up. I think having legislation and our government to reflect that as often as possible would be wonderful to see.

Please support HB 335.

Thank you,

Lejla Berberovic