

Sent: 1/12/2009 2:12:20 P.M. Alaskan Standard Time
Subject: Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

The threat from invasive weeds and other species continues to close in on Alaska every day. Work is continuing with a growing sense of urgency, and it is only with the active support of our legislators that we will ultimately succeed in protecting Alaska. We are forwarding an email we received from Representative Craig Johnson's office regarding a letter of support Senator Begich is providing for upcoming legislation in Alaska. Troy and I are asking for the continued support of Senator Murkowski, Representative Don Young and Governor Palin on these matters.

In addition to the legislation on the state level, The 100th Meridian Bill (S.1949) introduced by Senator Harry Reid would be a huge boost to Alaska's momentum and we are asking once again for it to be given a priority on the Natural Resources agenda for our legislators in Washington.

Troy and I have just returned from an interagency conference sponsored by the Oregon Dept of Agriculture, where we were invited speakers. We will be leaving to speak at another conference in Nevada next week. We receive these invitations because these groups are energized by the story of how citizens and dedicated agency experts are making a difference from the ground up in our Great land. But without support from the top down, Alaska will ultimately lose the precious ground she is holding now. Other states are watching as Alaska fights to avoid the same mistakes they made and are cheering our efforts as the sort of thing they only wish they would have had the insight to undertake when they had the opportunity. It is critical that we benefit from those who have gone before us--they are fighting losing battles to the tune of tens of millions of dollars a year because they hesitated. Alaska's economy, ecology and environment are at stake and we can not afford to be tentative. Each day adds more expense and less chance to win the battle!

We look forward to the results that will be achieved on this matter from a united Alaska!!

Troy and Lori Zaumseil
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Weeds Invading the North
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