

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Last year, the first vital steps were taken to protect Alaska's economy, ecology and environment from the devastation of noxious weeds. Troy and I had no experience with the political process, but were very gratified by the unanimous response to HB330. When Representative Johnson proposed that legislation, we vowed to dedicate our time and effort to making people understand the importance of developing this statewide response and why it was the fiscally responsible thing for their senators and representatives to do. We have spoken to many local, state and national audiences about Alaska's fight with invasives and met experts fighting the same problems in other states that threaten Alaska. Without exception, we hear the same message--that Alaska is America's last chance to do it right and not suffer the tens of millions of dollars in expense and losses due to invasive species, but that is only possible if we act quickly and aggressively while the advantage is still ours to take. HB12 is the next important step in the process. This legislation needs your vote today and as it moves forward, but in addition, Alaska and her citizens need your continued support as the agencies and people on the ground work to prevent and control invasive species from impacting our Great Land. Thank you

Lori Zaumseil