



April 10, 2026

Rep. Zack Fields and Rep. Carolyn Hall, Co-chairs
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chairs Fields, Hall, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kelly Donnelly, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Alaska SPCA. We are a statewide organization providing sheltering, veterinary care, and emergency response for dogs and cats. For more than 70 years, the Alaska SPCA has served as the backbone of animal welfare in our state. We are not affiliated with the ASPCA; we were founded, funded, and focused entirely on Alaska and Alaskan pet families. I'm here today in strong support of HB 335.

During the October 2025 typhoon, our team was directly involved in providing kennels, veterinary supplies, and basic animal care resources when the local shelter in Bethel became overwhelmed. We also helped coordinate intake and support displaced animals across multiple communities. What we experienced during that response is that Alaska does not yet have a fully coordinated system for managing pets during disasters—and that gap creates real consequences.

We saw delays in decision-making, confusion around roles, and challenges coordinating shelter capacity and reunification. Those breakdowns don't just affect animals; they slow evacuations, increase risk to responders, and make already difficult situations harder for families.

And underlying all of this is one simple reality: people do not leave their pets behind. When systems don't account for that, compliance with evacuation orders drops and risk increases for everyone.

HB 335 addresses these issues in a structured, practical way.

- It requires the state to establish a comprehensive plan for evacuation, transportation, sheltering, and reunification of pets and service animals.

3710 Woodland Dr., #1200
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 562-2999
www.alaskasPCA.org

- It builds coordination by integrating animal welfare expertise into both state and local emergency planning structures.
- It strengthens response capacity by allowing qualified out-of-state veterinary professionals to assist during declared disasters.

Just as importantly, it invests in two **foundational** tools we currently lack: a statewide identification and reunification system, and a public information program so pet owners know how to prepare before a disaster occurs.

This bill is about operational readiness. It's about reducing chaos in response. And it's about making sure that when the next disaster happens, we are better prepared to keep people safe—and keep families together. These are not theoretical improvements—they directly reflect the gaps we encountered on the ground in Alaska.

For those reasons, the Alaska SPCA respectfully urges your support of HB 335.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K" and "D".

Kelly Donnelly, MPA
Executive Director/CEO