



Alaska SeaLife Center
w i n d o w s t o t h e s e a

December 1, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell
P.O. box 110001
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

Re: AS 03.05.027: Noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and education

Globally, invasive plants, agricultural pests and other species of invasive organisms impact ecosystems, ecosystem services, and economies that in the United States alone result in over \$130 billion in losses and associated management costs each year. Alaska lags other states in coordinating prevention, monitoring, mitigation and education to reduce the threats and impacts of invasives, but Alaska does have some programs of value in our efforts to confront this growing problem. One such program is instituted under AS 03.05.027: Noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and education. However, this Statute includes Sec. 2. Repealing the Act; and Sec. 3. setting an effective date for the repeal as June 30, 2011.

We would like to ask you to consider the impacts repeal of this Act will have on Alaska's ability to address both the threat and the realities of invasive plants and agricultural pests in Alaska. As the Director of Conservation for the Alaska SeaLife Center and having charge over our marine invasive species program, I engage various Federal and State staff in invasive species planning and action and with industry and communities on initiatives to reduce the many threats posed by introduction of non native species. It will be a great loss to the State in managing invasive plants and our coordinating activities if AS 03.05.027 sunsets. We would therefore respectfully request your intervention to repeal Sec. 3. of this Act and assure a sustaining budget is approved to uphold the very important objectives, staffing and actions so necessary under the Statute.

I will be pleased to speak with you or anyone else who can help make a difference in building the State capacity to address the growing problem of invasive species that impact and threaten our State and its ecosystems and economies.

Sincerely,

Howard Ferren
Director of Conservation
907.224.6396
howard_ferren@alaskasealife.org