

Michele Hebert  
1460 Goshawk Lane  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

January 19, 2009

Honorable Sarah Palin  
Governor of the State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 11001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

I am writing a letter in support of the formation of an Alaska Council on Invasive Species. I am a professor of Agriculture with the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. I chair the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group, with a mission to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska by facilitating collaboration, cooperation and communication among Federal, State, Tribal and private groups. The establishment of a council is one of the top priorities for improving Alaska's ability to manage invasive species and protecting Alaska's industries potentially affected by problems invasive species pose.

Invasive species are a global problem, and Alaska is susceptible to many invaders, particularly as global climate change is projected to warm Alaska. Invasive species will, if not properly managed, affect all our major industries, including fisheries, tourism and transportation. The management of invasive species in other states cost millions of dollars. We have a unique opportunity in Alaska through the development of a council to be proactive and work collaboratively to reduce the introduction of new species and management efforts of species that have already entered the state.

A bill, HB 12 is being introduced by Representative Craig Johnson to the 26<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature. I urge you to support any legislation for the formation of an Invasive Species Council. Please support Bills that include the establishment of an Invasive Species Council and development of a strategic plan to address the threats of all invasive species in Alaska. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Hebert at 907-388-6085 or [ffmah@uaf.edu](mailto:ffmah@uaf.edu).

Sincerely,

Michele Hebert  
Agriculture and Horticulture Agent UAF

Cc: Representative Craig Johnson  
State Capital, Room 126  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Craig Johnson  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 640  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Larry Hartig, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 303  
P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner  
Department of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Tom Irwin, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7th. Ave., Suite 1400  
Anchorage, AK 99501

William H. (Bill) Hogan, Commissioner  
Department of Health and Social Services  
350 Main Street, Room 404  
PO Box 110601  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601

Leo von Scheben, Commissioner  
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Office of the Commissioner  
3132 Channel Drive  
PO Box 112500  
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Representative David Guttenberg  
AK State Capitol Room # 418  
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Mike Kelly  
AK State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Gene Therriault  
1292 Sadler Way, Room 308  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701