

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 26th 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.

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. 4th 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
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Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th. Ave., Suite 1400
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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
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Representative David Guttenberg
AK State Capitol Room # 418
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Mike Kelly
AK State Capitol, Room 434
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Representative Gene Therriault
1292 Sadler Way, Room 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701