

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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Representing: HOMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bill No./Subject: HB 38

Committee: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Aquatic invasive species are a threat to our economy, subsistence, and recreational lifestyle. Our freshwater and marine ecosystems are stressed by management concerns and ecological factors, making them particularly at risk to advancing invasive infestations. Mussels, milfoil, eelgrass, tunicate and many other invasive species cause millions of dollars of damage in states across the lower 48. Infestations do not respect agency boundaries or political timeliness. It's not a question of "if" it's "when." Let's plan ahead. Let's get a statewide framework in place to respond to invasive infestation with an early detection, rapid response approach. If our response is not timely, it will not be effective. Let's succeed where other states have failed.