

# LAYDOWN

Introduced by:

Dunne

Date:

06/02/26

Action:

Vote:

## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH RESOLUTION 2026-033

### A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN INTO LAW SENATE BILL 174 RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE ALASKA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

**WHEREAS**, SB 174: "An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game; relating to management of invasive species; and providing for an effective date" received strong bipartisan support, passing in the Senate unanimously and receiving 35 yeas votes in the House; and

**WHEREAS**, 15 Senators and 11 Representatives sponsored the bill, showing broad bipartisan awareness of the need for robust collaboration and State engagement in invasive species prevention and management for the benefit of Alaska's environment, economy, and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, invasive species pose a significant threat to KPB's economies, ecosystems, culturally significant ways of life, as well as resources relied on for food security, harvest, recreation, and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, invasive species can increasingly survive, spread, and cause harm in the KPB due to warming oceans and habitat disturbance; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread and impacts of invasive species outpace updates to policies and regulations, and investment in management; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska lacks an invasive species council to shape policy, prepare plans, and define actions for state agencies to proactively mitigate concerns. Note that invasive species councils have proven to be effective in at least 18 states in the U.S., including at least 10 other western states; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 174 establishes an Alaska Invasive Species Council comprised of a diverse and modest number of members to serve in an advisory role for invasive species management across agencies and jurisdictional boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Invasive Species Council will improve State efforts to proactively define, prevent, and rapidly respond to invasive species by bringing together stakeholders from across disparate agencies, user groups, and industry; and

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Invasive Species Council will serve in an advisory role and establish consistent approaches across our state agencies; and

**WHEREAS,** SB 174 also requires the preparation of a 5-year strategic plan, an annual update to the legislature, and establishes an invasive species response fund; and

**WHEREAS,** the Alaska Invasive Species Council does not have authority to direct agencies or funding but would elevate the conversation on invasive species while building awareness at higher levels of government; and

**WHEREAS,** for years, the Governor has signed a proclamation recognizing the second full week of June as Alaska Invasive Species Awareness Week, the creation of the Alaska Invasive Species Council is a critical next step to leverage resources of the State and stakeholder engagement to help prevent invasions and facilitate rapid respond to a threat;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Assembly expresses its appreciation for the Governor’s commitment to protecting Alaska’s natural resources and urges Governor Dunleavy to sign Senate Bill 174, or otherwise allow it to become law, to establish the Alaska Invasive Species Council and take a critical step forward to ensure Alaska’s natural resources are protected from invasive species.

**SECTION 2.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy, State House and Senate delegation for the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Robert Archibald, President PWS RCAC.

**SECTION 3.** That this resolution is effective immediately.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF JUNE, 2026.**

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Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President

ATTEST:

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Michele Turner, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: