

29 July 2013

Rep. Mike Thompson  
Co-Chair  
Congressional Invasive Species Caucus  
231 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Dan Benishek  
Co-Chair  
Congressional Invasive Species Caucus  
514 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Thompson and Benishek:

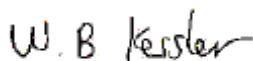
The Wildlife Society would like to thank you for co-chairing the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. The challenge of preventing the introduction and managing the spread of invasive species in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy is very important to our organization and its members. Thank you for taking the time to start this important discussion on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about invasive species issues and promote federal efforts to prevent and control them.

The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association representing nearly 11,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

As you know, invasive species negatively impact biological diversity (especially species at risk), productivity, environmental integrity, wildlife and human health, as well the economy. Industries affected by invasive plants and animals include agriculture, forestry, ranching, fisheries, and tourism. The Wildlife Society supports the passage of effective state and federal legislation that addresses the importation, transportation, and mitigation of invasive plants and animals. To learn more about our position on invasive species, please see the attached position statement.

As a Society made up of a professional community that deals with this issue on a daily basis across North America and abroad, we are happy to serve as a resource for any future meetings, hearings, or briefings. If we can be of any assistance to you or other caucus members, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs at (301) 897-9770 x 308 or [laura@wildlife.org](mailto:laura@wildlife.org) if you require further information or have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Winifred Kessler, President