



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources  
Committee  
1324 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural  
Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources  
Committee  
1329 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural  
Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Hastings and Markey and Senators Wyden and Murkowski:

According to the National Invasive Species Council and the Healthy Habitats Coalition, over 100 million acres of land and waters in the U.S. are infested with invasive species. These infestations cost taxpayers more than \$120 billion annually. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species are creating economic and ecologic damage across our Western landscapes and Pacific Islands.

At risk are natural environments and habitat, recreational use, shore and marine use, industrial and municipal use, grazing, and timber harvest. Ultimately, such infestations can reduce the value of state and federal lands, as well as adjacent private properties.

Successful prevention and treatment of invasive species infestations across the West and Pacific Islands requires a cooperative effort among all levels of government, the private sector and citizens. In 2010, Western Governors called for a better coordinated, nationwide effort to control and manage invasive species. WGA urged that federal funding focus on a "borderless" viewpoint and target funding to achieve results at the ground level on federal and non-federal lands to drastically reduce populations of these invasive species. (See WGA Resolution 2010-04, *Combating Invasive Species*)

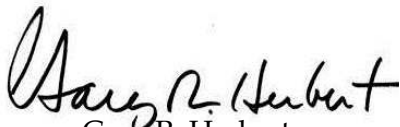
The Honorable Doc Hastings  
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Little progress has been made since 2010. Western Governors support passage of federal invasive species legislation that:

- ensures a more focused and streamlined federal approach to the problem;
- implements aggressive federal invasive species control programs which result in more on-the-ground prevention, management, and eradication of invasive species;
- provides opportunities for collaboration with states and Pacific Islands to prevent the spread of invasive species populations, avert new unauthorized introductions, and to work together to set priorities for invasive species management;
- improves intergovernmental coordination and communication regarding invasive species infestations to facilitate the most effective, cooperative and rapid response; and
- promotes increased transparency and accountability of federal funds allocated and used for the prevention, control and management of invasive species.

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we respectfully request your support of federal invasive species management legislation that accomplishes the above.

Sincerely,

  
Gary R. Herbert  
Governor, State of Utah  
Chairman, WGA

  
John Hickenlooper  
Governor, State of Colorado  
Vice Chairman, WGA

cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair, Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee