



*The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK for current and future generations.*

# ACTION ALERT

## Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Species Contact Senator Little to Get a Strong Law Passed this Year

April 2012

Dear Friend,

On March 27th, State Senator Betty Little (R-Queensbury) introduced a bill that would help prevent the spread of invasive species, continuing the work already started in New York. However, the bill has very little enforcement power and must be strengthened before it is passed into law.

The bill, S. 6826, would require the departments of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture and Markets to develop regulations pertaining to invasive species which would be prohibited or regulated. **Unfortunately, the bill lacks real enforcement provisions.** For a first offense of transporting or introducing an invasive species, the bill calls for an optional written warning or being given some education materials. We believe there should be a discretionary fine for a first offense as a real deterrent for people who transport and introduce invasive species.

In fact, several Adirondack towns, villages and counties have already enacted stronger laws that have actual penalties for first offenders. The state law should be similar. Copies of the local laws and the state bill can be found at: [http://adirondackcouncil.org/issues\\_invasives.html](http://adirondackcouncil.org/issues_invasives.html).

The Legislature is currently considering amendments to this bill, and other interests are trying to weaken it. **Please contact Senator Little by April 17th and in your own words:**

- **Thank her for introducing S.6826, as invasive species are an important issue that must be addressed this year.**
- **Ask that the bill be strengthened to include fines of up to \$250 for a first violation.**
- **Request that both the Senate and Assembly pass the same bill this year so it can become law.**

**Senator Little can be reached in the following ways:**

**Room 310**

**Legislative Office Building**

**Albany, NY 12247**

**Phone: (518) 455-2811**

**Fax: (518) 426-6873**

**Email: [little@nysenate.gov](mailto:little@nysenate.gov)**



DEFENDING THE EAST'S GREATEST WILDERNESS

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

**Please email, call, or send your letter to Senator Little before April 17th!** If possible, please send or email us a copy of your correspondence as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [activists@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:activists@adirondackcouncil.org) or call us toll-free at 800.842.7275 (Albany) or 877.873.2240 (Elizabethtown).

Thank you for your help and support!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.M.G.", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lisa M. Genier  
Program Analyst