



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IRS Grants Tax Exemption to Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition**

The Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC) announced today that it has achieved an important step in advancing its role as the nation's leading non-profit organization focused on the national and global problem of invasive species. By approving its status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized RRISC's efforts as a charity to address the significant environmental, economic, and public health challenges posed by invasive species.

RRISC's mission is to educate Americans on the risks posed by invasive species to the economy, environment, and public health of the United States, and promote cost-effective strategies to reduce those risks. Invasive species cause more than \$120 billion in annual damage to the US economy, and an estimated 42% of the species currently on the federal Endangered Species Act list are imperiled at least in part because of some harm caused by invasive species. Examples of Invasive species include the Asian carp, emerald ash borer, Burmese python, zebra mussel, and kudzu. RRISC seeks to engage a broad-based group of stakeholders and all levels of government in non-regulatory risk-based strategies to accomplish its mission.

RRISC cooperates with the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Mike Thompson (D-CA). Rep. Benishek congratulated RRISC President, Scott Cameron, on the IRS designation and said: "Finding ways to effectively combat invasive species, which are both harmful to the environment and the economy in Northern Michigan and around the country, has been a key priority of mine since coming to Congress. I was excited to partner with Rep. Thompson to found the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus and I look forward to working with groups like RRISC in the future to make progress on this important issue." Representative Thompson added, "Invasive species pose a threat our economy, water infrastructure, agriculture and environment in communities across our country. I look forward to working with RRISC to better protect our resources and reduce the risk of invasive species."

To learn more about RRISC, please contact:

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[www.rrisc.org](http://www.rrisc.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RRISCorg>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RRISCorg>

Donations by check may be made out to:

The Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition, and mailed to  
1225 I Street NW, Suite 250; Washington DC 20005

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**Reduce Risks for Invasive Species Coalition is exempt from US Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is now tax deductible to the extent provided by law.**

**RRISC** educates on the risks posed by invasive species, and promotes cost-effective strategies to reduce those risks.

**1225 I Street NW, Suite 250 Washington DC 20005 [www.rrisc.org](http://www.rrisc.org)**