

Introduced by: Johnson, Mayor
Date: 08/06/24
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE KACHEMAK BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, the reserve system was created by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972; and

WHEREAS, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 30 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems; and

WHEREAS, originally established as estuarine sanctuaries, the name was changed to estuarine research reserves in the 1988 reauthorization of the CZMA; and

WHEREAS, the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) was established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Sport Fish Division in February 1999; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR is the only National Estuarine Research Reserve in Alaska and was selected because of the diversity of habitats represented by Kachemak Bay; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the KBNERR is to enhance understanding and appreciation of the Kachemak Bay estuary and adjacent waters to ensure that these ecosystems remain healthy and productive; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 Alaska withdrew from participation in the Coastal Zone Management Program and hence no longer qualifies for grants under the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR transitioned from a partnership with ADF&G to a partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Center for Conservation Science as the state partner in July 2015; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR was housed in the Alaska Islands & Oceans Visitor Center until their separation from ADF&G. At that time, they moved to new quarters on Kachemak Drive; and

WHEREAS, during its 25 years of work KBNERR has fulfilled its mission. And at this time a great need exists to further enhance understanding of Kachemak Bay and ensure that its ecosystems remain healthy and productive;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough commends KBNERR’s 25 years of learning about Kachemak Bay and their involvement with decision-makers to ensure that local ecosystems remain healthy and productive.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson
No: None
Absent: None