

Introduced by: Dunne, Johnson  
Date: 03/17/20  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2020-022**

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE U.S. SENATE AND U.S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES TO FULLY FUND KACHEMAK BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE  
RESEARCH RESERVE WHICH PROVIDES VITAL SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMY  
OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

**WHEREAS**, the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (“KBNERR”) was established in 1999 with strong support from Kachemak Bay communities and the Kenai Peninsula Borough as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve (“NERR”) System funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with state partners; and

**WHEREAS**, the KBNERR is one of 29 NERRs located in coastal regions throughout the U.S. and is the only NERR in the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the KBNERR’s state partner is the University of Alaska Anchorage - Alaska Center for Conservation Science; and

**WHEREAS**, the KBNERR conducts research, education, and harmful species monitoring, and provides coastal training opportunities to communities located in Kachemak Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the research conducted by KBNERR provides valuable information to Kachemak Bay communities about salmon and salmon habitat, marine temperatures, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and ocean circulation; and

**WHEREAS**, the harmful species program conducted by KBNERR involves many citizen scientists throughout Kachemak Bay, monitors for the possible introduction of nonnative species such as green crabs and tunicates which could have major economic impacts to Kachemak Bay if established, and monitors for harmful algal blooms that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning and other potentially fatal conditions to humans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough includes the waters of and uplands surrounding Kachemak Bay in lower Cook Inlet which, as maritime communities, depend on the bounty of the sea for a large portion of their economy; and

**WHEREAS,** the communities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough depend on traditional maritime commerce including commercial, charter, sport, personal use and subsistence fishing; marine transportation, mariculture, tourism, and marine-related arts; and

**WHEREAS,** many local residents depend on harvesting marine resources in order to lower their cost-of-living, enjoy healthy outdoor activity, and meet increasing demand for locally grown products; and

**WHEREAS,** the vitality of the Kachemak Bay region private sector and the food security of local residents depends significantly on the scientific services that the public sector has reliably provided, which has been essential for sustainably managing our marine resources and for monitoring ocean conditions to assure safe travel; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough is the home of the KBNERR, a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Alaska Anchorage, and employees of the reserve are contributing members of Homer's community and economy; and

**WHEREAS,** the KBNERR monitors and studies oceanography, plankton, salmon, marine invasive species, harmful algal blooms, ocean acidification, and changing species distributions; and

**WHEREAS,** the research and monitoring performed by the KBNERR is used by local governments for understanding the threats to coastal communities from our changing marine climate, other agencies for regulatory decision-making, and the public to better understand the ecology of Kachemak Bay; and

**WHEREAS,** the KBNERR provides environmental education opportunities to school groups, thousands of visitors, and interested local individuals about the marine environment of Kachemak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** the KBNERR, federal, state, and local agencies have been recognized by others as a good example of how good collaboration amongst agencies provides citizens with cost-effective use of public funding, more user-oriented science, and added economic stimulus from visiting scientists;

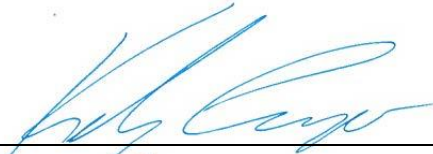
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly hereby encourages the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the importance of the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to the economy of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and to provide full funding to this critical program in the fiscal year 2021 budget so that they may continue their long-standing contributions to Kachemak Bay residents and visitors.


**SECTION 2.** That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Dan Sullivan, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Representative Don Young, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Manager Coowe Walker and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Community Council President George Matz.

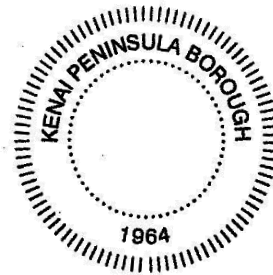
**SECTION 3.** That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019.**

  
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Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Dunne, Hibbert, Johnson, Smalley, Cooper  
No: None  
Absent: None