

Introduced by: Johnson, Dunne  
Date: 04/21/20  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 8 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2020-028**

**A RESOLUTION PROMOTING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY**

- WHEREAS,** generations of families have relied on the bounty of the Kenai Peninsula for their food and livelihood for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS,** current residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough rely on healthy wild salmon runs for subsistence foods, as well as sport and commercial fishing incomes; and
- WHEREAS,** abundant salmon runs require healthy watersheds, safe water temperatures and stable ocean conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** small-scale farms which use practices to reduce rather than exacerbate climate change are growing more numerous in the borough, and those farms depend on clean air and water and healthy soils; and
- WHEREAS,** schools within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District ("KPBSD") are teaching students about gardening, sustainable fisheries and protection of our watersheds; and
- WHEREAS,** students and educators throughout KPBSD have helped protect the Kenai Peninsula environment through Caring for the Kenai projects over the past 30 years; and
- WHEREAS,** community groups in the borough support recycling efforts that reduce the burden of solid waste at the borough landfill; and
- WHEREAS,** community groups are organizing home and small business solar energy projects in conjunction with the local Homer Electric Association Energy Cooperative; and
- WHEREAS,** community groups have started a Central Peninsula community composting project which provides quality food for livestock, generates compost for farms and reduces waste and methane production at the borough landfill; and
- WHEREAS,** the health of many borough residents is increasingly at risk from wildfire smoke, heat-related events, and tick-borne illness related to global climate change; and
- WHEREAS,** the health of the borough forests is threatened by the spread of the spruce bark beetle, spruce tree aphids, drought, and other effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS,** it is understood that sustainability will only be achieved by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** it is more important than ever to cooperate locally and internationally to defend the environmental progress that has been heretofore gained; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan includes the following goal: maintain quality of the borough's natural environment, including protecting visual quality, minimizing development in hazardous areas, and developing strategies that help reduce and respond to impacts of changing environmental conditions (Goal 2, Focus Area: Land Use, Objective D); and

**WHEREAS,** a 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan strategy is to take actions to help preserve the borough's scenic beauty (Goal 2, Focus Area: Land Use, Objective D, strategy 1); and

**WHEREAS,** a 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan strategy is to identify and protect the critical natural systems of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, its rivers, watersheds, floodplains, and fish and wildlife habitats and resources (Goal 2, Focus Area: Land Use, Objective D, strategy 2); and

**WHEREAS,** Earth Day is an annual reminder of the continued need for environmental stewardship commitments and sustainability efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** Earth Day was founded in 1970 and is celebrated by over 190 countries around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough noted in its 1990 Earth Day resolution that "the economic welfare of the borough depends heavily on natural resources which must be protected;" and

**WHEREAS,** the theme of Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action and borough communities are planning numerous events to mark the occasion;

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

**SECTION 1.** That the week of April 18, 2020 to April 25, 2020 is designated as a week-long celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day.

**SECTION 2.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports a borough-wide effort to share in the celebration of environmental stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

**SECTION 3.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports continued actions within the borough to safeguard the natural resources upon which our citizens depend for their good health and livelihoods.

**SECTION 4.** That residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough are encouraged to celebrate Earth Day 2020 by participating in activities planned in their communities, and by making a conscious personal difference in the welfare of their environment by doing such things as reducing waste, recycling, conserving energy, insulating homes and businesses, growing or consuming locally grown produce, and using active transport.

**SECTION 5.** That the borough clerk shall send electronic copies of this resolution to the radio stations typically notified for news releases, as well as the *Peninsula Clarion*, *Homer News* and *Seward Journal* and borough social media platforms in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

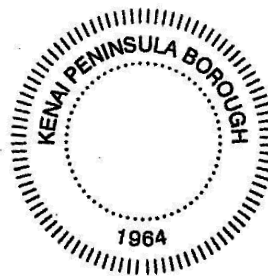
**SECTION 6.** That this resolution becomes effective retroactive to April 18, 2020 upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF APRIL, 2020.**

  
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Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
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Jonni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



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