

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lord

RESOLUTION 19-078

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOMER SUPPORTING THE
INCLUSION OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION
MEASURES IN THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH'S 2019
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, annual air temperatures in the Kenai Peninsula Borough have risen by 3.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969 and July 2019 was the warmest month on record in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, most of the Kenai Peninsula Borough was in "Severe Drought" status and, for the first time, parts of the northern peninsula reached "Extreme Drought" status; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough issued three disaster declarations throughout summer 2019 in response to multiple fires and droughts caused or exacerbated by increased average temperature and decreased levels of rainfall; and

WHEREAS, continuation of current climate trends threatens the future of salmon runs on the Kenai Peninsula by depleting water levels and raising temperatures in local watersheds; and

WHEREAS, continuation of current climate trends may increase the risk and intensity of wildfires resulting from drought and increasing temperatures across the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer stands at risk of significant economic and social harm should the integrity of local fisheries and surrounding natural environment be further compromised; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough's July 2019 draft Comprehensive Plan identifies significant and accelerating impacts caused by climate change in Alaska and recommends preparation of a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan as a strategic response to these challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission further amended the Kenai Peninsula Borough's draft Comprehensive Plan to recommend creation of a Kenai Peninsula Borough Commission on Sustainability to explore the feasibility of alternative energy sources on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has already formally recognized the importance of climate action by being the first city in the State to adopt a climate action plan.

