

Introduced by: Navarre, Popp,  
Scalzi  
Date: 12/02/97  
Action: Defeated  
Vote: 1 Yes, 4 No,  
4 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 97-091**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
ADMINISTRATION TO NOMINATE THE KENAI RIVER FOR  
THE AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS,** the American Heritage Rivers Program was established in 1997 to support community-led efforts relating to rivers that spur economic revitalization, protect natural resources and the environment, and preserve historic and cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** in his State of the Union Address of February 4, 1997 President Clinton announced he will designate ten American Heritage Rivers, and he then convened an interagency task force responsible for promptly implementing this initiative; and
- WHEREAS,** nominations for this program must be received by December 10, 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** one of several criteria to be considered in nominating a river for this program is that a range of citizens and organizations support the nomination and plan of action; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai River is an excellent candidate for this program as it is recognized as a critical element of the local economy, adjacent property owners and communities have taken significant steps to attempt to protect the river habitat and its fish and wildlife, and important efforts have been made to preserve the historic and cultural heritage of the river by historical societies, indigenous peoples and other interested parties; and
- WHEREAS,** artifacts have been discovered which indicate the presence of fish camps in the vicinity of the Kenai River dating back at least 2,000 years, and numerous interpretive sites have been established along the river recognizing historical uses of the river; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai River Special Management Area ("KRSMA") Advisory Board has voted to nominate the Kenai River as an American Heritage River and is conducting public hearings concerning the nomination petition; and
- WHEREAS,** designation as an American Heritage River would benefit the Kenai Peninsula Borough as the federal government would appoint a "River Navigator" to aid the local communities in coordinating and accessing available resources to support river restoration, historic and cultural resource preservation, and community and economic revitalization; and
- WHEREAS,** even if it is not designated as an American Heritage River the Kenai Peninsula Borough will benefit from nominating the Kenai River for this program as the

community will be invited to attend symposia on sharing information and tools and resources available from a variety of sources, and will be provided with site specific geological, environmental and other data and computer software tailored to meet the community's needs; and

**WHEREAS,** the assembly believes the Kenai Peninsula Borough is the most appropriate entity for submitting the nomination petition, working in conjunction with other interested parties; and

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

**SECTION 1.** The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the administration to nominate the Kenai River as an American Heritage River on or before December 10, 1997, and in doing so to work with the City of Kenai, the City of Soldotna, the KRSMA Board, and other interested parties.

**SECTION 2.** That on or before December 15, 1997 the administration shall make copies of the nomination packet available to the public by providing copies to all cities and communities in the vicinity of the Kenai River, the KRSMA Board, the Borough Clerk's office, the Borough Planning Department, libraries and other public facilities in the vicinity of the affected area where requested or where the administration deems appropriate.

**SECTION 3.** That on January 6, 1998, and every January thereafter while the Kenai River American Heritage River nomination is either pending or in effect, the assembly shall, by resolution, vote on the question of whether to support the continued nomination of the Kenai River. Should any such resolution fail, then the nomination shall be withdrawn.

**SECTION 4.** That copies of this Resolution be mailed to the American Heritage Rivers Interagency Task Force, Executive Office of the President; John Shively, Alaska Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Senators Jerry Ward and John Torgerson; and Alaska Representatives Gail Phillips, Gary Davis, and Mark Hodgins; and the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board.

**SECTION 5.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**DEFEATED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 3RD DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997.**

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Jack E. Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:

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Linda S. Murphy,  
Borough Clerk