

Introduced by: Martin, Long, Sprague
Date: 01/21/03
Action: Adopted
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2003-009**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
BY THE ALASKA MOUNTAIN AND WILDERNESS HUTS ASSOCIATION FOR A
“PARADISE VALLEY TRAIL HUT-TO-HUT SYSTEM” IN THE KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH**

- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association (“Huts Association”) has a proposal for development and operation of a Paradise Valley Trail Hut-to-Hut System principally on Chugach National Forest land in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** the Huts Association is a 501(c)(3) Alaska nonprofit organization that intends to use the hut-to-hut trail system to provide a new outdoor experience for Alaskans and visitors and to foster stewardship of Alaska lands; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed activity would draw visitors to the borough, provide contract services for borough businesses, add employment opportunities in the borough, and serve borough residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the Huts Association trail proposal geographically overlaps part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail proposal also currently under consideration by the Forest Service; and
- WHEREAS,** the Huts Association, as part of its education mission, has proposed one of its backcountry huts as an Iditarod roadhouse to be placed along the historic Iditarod route as a living museum of the borough’s transportation history; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Area Plan for State Lands and the Forest Plan for Chugach National Forest foresee a trail and public use cabins as part of management strategies that promote these areas for recreation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Huts Association has secured a seed money grant of \$16,600 from the National Park Service Cooperative Cost Share Program for construction and is awaiting Congressional action on a proposal by U.S. Senator Ted Stevens to provide \$500,000 for partial funding, through the forest service, for the project within the borough;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the backcountry huts concept as put forth by the Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association for the development and management of a public use system of backcountry huts in the Ptarmigan Lake and Snow River area of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

SECTION 2. That the proposed Paradise Valley Hut-to-Hut proposal and proposed reopening of the Iditarod National Historic Trail are complementary projects, and joint planning for the benefit of both proposals and the trail-using public is encouraged.

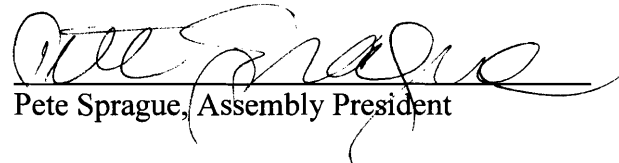
SECTION 3. That the borough assembly encourages the U.S. Forest Service to accept the Paradise Valley Trail Hut-to-Hut proposal and efficiently conclude the permitting process.

SECTION 4. That the borough assembly encourages Congress to act favorably on Senator Ted Stevens' proposed \$500,000 funding of the backcountry hut program.

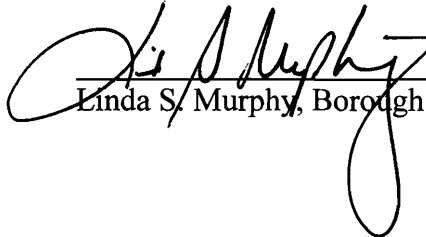
SECTION 5. That copies of this resolution be provided to the U.S. Forest Service, Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Representative Don Young.

SECTION 6. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY 2003.


Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

