

Introduced by: Martin, Moss, Long
Date: 3/11/03
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2003-029**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING BY THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE
KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE**

- WHEREAS,** in 1972 Congress established the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to provide for long term research and education regarding estuarine, marine and associated watershed systems; and
- WHEREAS,** in February 1999 the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) was designated by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is the largest and one of the newest research reserves in the “National Estuarine Research Reserve System”; and
- WHEREAS,** research reserves are established as federal-state-local partnerships, with individual reserves managed by the state; and
- WHEREAS,** the KBRR encompasses over 365,000 acres of publicly owned terrestrial and aquatic habitats in and around Kachemak Bay and includes middle and lower Cook Inlet and the northern Gulf of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** the KBRR research and education program is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division; and
- WHEREAS,** efforts by the KBRR and associated collaborative research programs will substantially improve understanding of the Cook Inlet, Shelikof Strait and southern Kenai Peninsula marine and terrestrial systems which information can be used to help the federal, state and local governments reach sound resource management and planning decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** KBRR education and outreach programs and facilities will enhance the economy through the creation of jobs in both the KBRR and private sector including support for charter services, lodging, construction, other support resource-based services within the region and by enhancing the tourism industry; and
- WHEREAS,** KBRR is working closely with school districts to enhance K-12 classroom science programs, field-trip opportunities, and improving overall student learning opportunities about the environment in which they live; and

WHEREAS, state support for basic facility operation and core staff costs will allow the KBRR to continue a regional research and education program and will leverage substantial federal and other funds for additional research and education; and

WHEREAS, the KBRR requires non-federal matching funds to support annual federal operating funds and such additional operating funds are required for KBRR's achievement of its research and education goals;

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

SECTION 1. The Assembly strongly encourages the State of Alaska to support the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve by appropriating adequate state funding for basic KBRR facility operations and support of four core reserve management, research, education, and administrative positions.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly strongly encourages the state of Alaska to continue to support receipt authority needed to build KBRR research and education programs.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to Senator Con Bunde, Senator Georgiana Lincoln, Senator Gary Stevens, Senator Tom Wagoner, Representative Mike Chenault, Representative Mike Hawker, Representative Carl Morgan, Representative Paul Seaton, Representative Kelly Wolf, Governor Frank Murkowski.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2003.


Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

