

Introduced by: Martin
Date: 08/05/03
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2003-088**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CITIZEN-BASED VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY
MONITORING AS A COST EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE WAY TO PROTECT
FISHERIES, WETLANDS, AND LOCAL WATER BODIES**

- WHEREAS,** the residents and families of the Kenai Peninsula Borough rely on fishing, tourism and other economic pursuits which require healthy fisheries and intact aquatic ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaskans frequently cite clean water and healthy watersheds as top priorities for maintaining Alaska's high quality of life; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's water resources, occurring in their natural state, are reserved to the people for common use in the state constitution, and, as a result, citizens have a strong interest in actively protecting water resources; and
- WHEREAS,** properly trained citizen volunteers can collect credible, scientifically defensible water quality and other data which helps businesses, agencies, and local governments better protect water bodies from becoming polluted, and they can provide these essential water quality monitoring services at a fraction of the cost state agencies incur; and
- WHEREAS,** once a water body becomes polluted, the federal Clean Water Act imposes expensive remediation requirements and mandatory restrictions on business activities, and, as a result, preventing pollution through active monitoring is typically the most cost-effective course of action to protect Alaska's fisheries and water quality; and
- WHEREAS,** the State Department of Environmental Conservation ("ADEC") recently proposed to cease preventative water quality monitoring, to focus only on restoration monitoring, and has chosen to retain funds traditionally passed through to local groups, which have contributed substantial economic benefits to local communities; and
- WHEREAS,** both the Kenai Watershed Forum and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District serve important roles in this volunteer program by providing significant volunteer training and collecting extensive data from numerous watersheds in the Kenai Peninsula Borough;

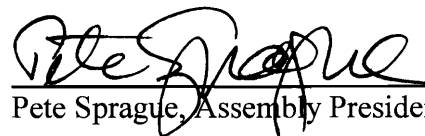
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough hereby requests the ADEC to reconsider its recent change in direction for statewide water quality monitoring, and urges ADEC to support scientifically defensible and cost effective water quality data collection by properly trained citizen volunteers.

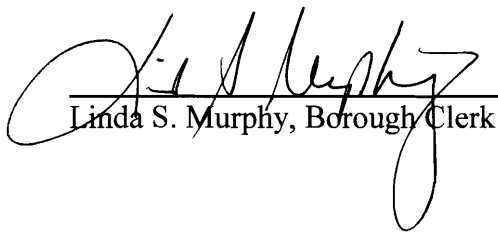
SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators Ted Stevens and Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Representative Don Young, Alaska Senators Thomas Wagoner, Gary Stevens, Georgianna Lincoln and Con Bunde, Alaska Representatives Kelly Wolf, Mike Chenault, Paul Seaton, Carl Morgan, Mike Hawker and Ernesta Ballard, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

SECTION 3. That this resolution becomes effective immediately upon its enactment.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2003.


Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

