

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold

RESOLUTION 20-026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA REQUESTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REINSTATE FUNDS IN THE FY21 FEDERAL BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM TO ENSURE FUTURE CONTINUATION OF IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE KACHEMAK BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE TO THE CITY OF HOMER, OTHER KACHEMAK BAY COMMUNITIES, AND THE LOWER KENAI PENINSULA

WHEREAS, The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) was established in 1999 with strong support from the Kachemak Bay community as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with state partners; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR is one of 29 NERRs located in coastal regions throughout the U.S. and is the only NERR in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR's State partner is the University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Conservation Science; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR conducts research, education, and harmful species monitoring, and provides coastal training opportunities to communities located in Kachemak Bay; and

WHEREAS, The research conducted by KBNERR provides valuable information to Kachemak Bay communities about salmon and salmon habitat, marine temperatures, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and ocean circulation; and

WHEREAS, The harmful species program conducted by KBNERR involves many citizen scientists throughout Kachemak Bay, monitors for the possible introduction of nonnative species such as green crabs and tunicates which could have major economic impacts to Kachemak Bay if established, and monitors for harmful algal blooms that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning and other conditions potentially fatal to humans; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR educates and trains residents and visitors to Kachemak Bay, ranging in age from five to ninety-five, about the ecology of Kachemak Bay and its watersheds based on research and harmful species monitoring; and

WHEREAS, KBNERR participates in NERR system-wide monitoring in which all NERRs collect the same suite of data following standardized protocols that allow comparisons

46 across the NERR system and changes over time; and

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48 WHEREAS, Graduate students and interns from across the nation have participated in
49 research, monitoring, and education programs at KBNERR; and

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51 WHEREAS, KBNERR collaborates with multiple Federal and State agencies, nonprofit
52 organizations, and other NERRs on research, monitoring, education and coastal training; and

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54 WHEREAS, KBNERR conducted a coastal training program workshop series on climate
55 adaptation and resiliency that attracted experts and participants from across the state and
56 US and information learned from these workshops is being incorporated into City of Homer
57 operations; and

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59 WHEREAS, The work of KBNERR supports the marine economy of Kachemak Bay; and

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61 WHEREAS, The City of Homer has relied on work performed by KBNERR to understand
62 our risk from coastal erosion, sea level rise, and climate change; and

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64 WHEREAS, KBNERR is representative of the value of all NERRs in the nationwide
65 system to local communities, states, and the nation; and

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67 WHEREAS, Alaska's Congressional Delegation continues to demonstrate their
68 understanding of the value and importance of KBNERR and the NERR System during the
69 Federal budgeting process.

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71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, requests
72 that the Alaska Congressional Delegation reinstate funds into the FY21 Federal budget for the
73 National Estuarine Research Reserve System to ensure future continuation of important
74 ecological and economic contributions from the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research
75 Reserve to the City of Homer, other Kachemak Bay communities, and the lower Kenai
76 Peninsula.

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78 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this ____ day of March, 2018.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

85 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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90 Fiscal note: N/A