

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lewis

RESOLUTION 17-059

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
ENCOURAGING THE U.S. SENATE AND U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO FEDERAL
AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE VITAL SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMY OF
HOMER, ALASKA.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer, Alaska rests on the shores of Kachemak Bay in lower
Cook Inlet, and as a maritime community depends on the bounty of the sea for a large
portion of its economy; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer, Alaska's traditional maritime commerce includes
commercial, charter, sport, and subsistence fishing; mariculture, tourism, and marine-related
arts; and

WHEREAS, Many local residents depend on harvesting marine resources in order to
lower their cost-of-living, enjoy healthy outdoor activity, and meet increasing demand for
locally grown products; and

WHEREAS, The vitality of the Kachemak Bay's private sector and the food security of
local residents depends significantly on the scientific services that the public sector has
reliably provided, which has been essential for sustainably managing our marine resources
and for monitoring ocean conditions to assure safe travel; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge within the Department of
Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is headquartered in Homer and employees of this
refuge are contributing members of Homer's community and economy; and

WHEREAS, The R/V Tiglax, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's research
vessel which is home-ported in the Homer Harbor, provides an important platform for
research on marine birds and mammals, oceanography, volcanoes, cultural and historic
resources, botany, entomology, genetics, and more; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge conducts critical studies on
marine birds in the Gulf of Alaska, North Pacific, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chukchi
Sea, including documentation of the widespread common murre die-off and subsequent
colony failure in 2015 and 2016 that may be a harbinger of climate change impacts on marine
resources important to Homer's maritime economy; and

43 WHEREAS, The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge sponsors the Kachemak Bay
44 Shorebird Festival during spring shorebird migration each spring, an event that brings
45 hundreds of visitors to Homer to kick off the tourist season and educates diverse groups of
46 people and area schools about the importance of birds and bird habitats to human wellbeing
47 and international connectivity ; and
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49 WHEREAS, The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is due to update its
50 comprehensive conservation plan that includes the Alaska portion of the Valor in the Pacific
51 National Monument which adds protections for certain World War II features in the Aleutian
52 Islands; and
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54 WHEREAS, Lower Cook Inlet is the intersection of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
55 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, which are self-directed partnerships between federal
56 agencies, states, tribes, and non-governmental organizations, universities, and other entities
57 to collaboratively define science needs and jointly address broad-scale conservation issues;
58 and
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60 WHEREAS, Homer, Alaska is the home of the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine
61 Research Reserve, a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
62 Administration and the University of Alaska Anchorage, and employees of the reserve are
63 contributing members of Homer's community and economy; and
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65 WHEREAS, The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve monitors and
66 studies oceanography, plankton, salmon, marine invasive species, harmful algal blooms,
67 ocean acidification, and changing species distributions; and
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69 WHEREAS, The research and monitoring performed by the Kachemak Bay National
70 Estuarine Research Reserve is used by the City of Homer for understanding the threats to
71 coastal communities from our changing marine climate, other agencies for regulatory
72 decision-making, and the public to better understand the ecology of Kachemak Bay; and
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74 WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay is the home of the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, in the
75 Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (National
76 Ocean Service), and operated in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and
77 employees of the lab are contributing members of Kachemak Bay's communities and
78 economy; and
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80 WHEREAS, The Kasitsna Bay Laboratory monitors and studies coastal oceanography
81 and habitats, environmental triggers for harmful algal blooms and paralytic shellfish
82 poisoning events, ocean acidification, and intertidal and benthic ecosystem ecology of
83 Kachemak Bay and lower Cook Inlet; and
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85 WHEREAS, The Kasitsna Bay Laboratory documented the coastal ecosystem effects of
86 the Pacific warm anomaly, including paralytic shellfish poisoning events and sea star
87 wasting disease in Kachemak Bay, both of which have implications for fishery and shellfish
88 resources important to Homer, Alaska's economy; and

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90 WHEREAS, The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Kachemak Bay National
91 Estuarine Research Reserve, and Kasitsna Bay Laboratory provide environmental education
92 opportunities to school groups, 60,000 to 70,000 visitors, and interested local individuals
93 about the marine environment of Kachemak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska; and

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95 WHEREAS, The U.S. Coast Guard Hickory and its crew is home-ported in Homer,
96 Alaska, and performs critical functions such as aids to navigation, search and
97 rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine environmental protection and homeland
98 security; and

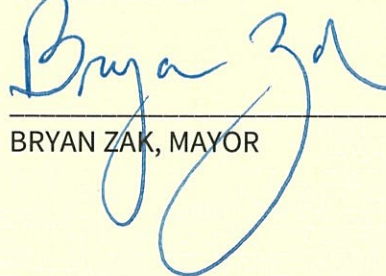
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100 WHEREAS, The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment based in Homer, Alaska,
101 provides marine safety, marine environmental protection, commercial fishing vessel exams,
102 pollution response, facility inspections, port state control, domestic vessel inspections, port
103 waterways and coastal security, and community outreach services; and

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105 WHEREAS, Kachemak Bay federal, state, and local agencies have been recognized by
106 others as a good example of how good collaboration amongst agencies provides citizens with
107 cost-effective use of public funding, more user-oriented science, and added economic
108 stimulus from visiting scientists.

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110 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby
111 encourages the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the
112 importance of these federal agencies to the economy of Homer, Alaska and to restore full
113 funding to these critical programs in the fiscal year 2018 budget so that they may continue
114 their long-standing contributions to Kachemak Bay residents and visitors.

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116 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council, this 12th day of June, 2017.

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121 CITY OF HOMER

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BRYAN ZAK, MAYOR

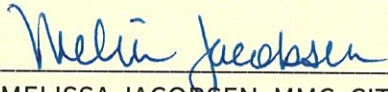


127 ATTEST:

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131 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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