

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

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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 across the NERR system and changes over time; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, requests that the Alaska Congressional Delegation reinstate funds into 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 9th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK



Fiscal note: N/A