

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager

RESOLUTION 21-054

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH FOR THE FEDERAL FUNDING REQUEST OF \$35 MILLION TO MITIGATE THE SPRUCE BARK BEETLE INFESTATION THAT HAS RESURGED ON THE KENAI PENINSULA.

WHEREAS, In the 1990's over one million acres of forest were impacted by spruce bark beetle infestation; and

WHEREAS, A resurgence of Spruce Bark Beetle infestation was confirmed in 2019 with aerial detection surveying showing 150,000 acres of damage; and

WHEREAS, Since 2005 rampant fires have cost taxpayers more than \$8 million per year in direct suppression costs alone; and

WHEREAS, Dead spruce has reduced commercial value and creates dire implications for fire rise on the Peninsula as seen most recently in the 2019 Swan Lake fire; and

WHEREAS, The Western Beetle Mitigation Forest Crisis Response Federal Funding Request for \$35 million to Senator Murkowski from the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) identifies project objectives to mitigate infestation and create defensible space across all municipal lands and provide assistance to residential properties in or along the wildland urban interface.

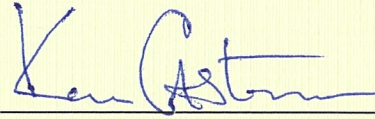
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby supports a joint resolution with the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the \$35 million federal funding request for Spruce Bark Beetle mitigation on the Kenai Peninsula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign a letter of support and/or a future joint resolution supporting the request of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to secure funding from the Alaska U.S. Congressional Delegation for spruce bark beetle mitigation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 9th day of August, 2021.

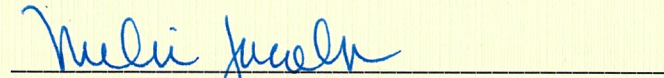
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CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

