1 CITY OF HOMER 2 **HOMER, ALASKA** 3 Aderhold 4 **RESOLUTION 16-046** 5 6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED UPDATE TO ANNEX B OF THE ALASKA 7 FEDERAL/STATE PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR RESPONSE TO OIL 8 9 AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DISCHARGES/RELEASES (UNIFIED PLAN). 10 11 WHEREAS, The Unified Plan is a federal and state preparedness plan that guides 12 13 pollution and spill cleanup in Alaska; and 14 WHEREAS, Health of marine resources are critically important to Homer's coastal 15 community economy which relies heavily on fishing, tourism, mariculture, and marine trades; 16 and 17 18 WHEREAS, In the current Unified Plan, the City of Homer, as a stakeholder, is eligible 19 to participate on the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) with direct access to Unified 20 Command and access to important information and decisions during a spill response; and 21 22 WHEREAS, The City of Homer is a member of a Regional Citizens Advisory Council 23 (RCAC) and as such has been represented on the RSC in the Unified Plan for twenty-five years 24 with direct access to Unified Command and the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and a clear process 25 for providing local knowledge and information critical for protecting public interests; and 26 27 28 WHEREAS, An Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed update to Annex B of the Unified Plan eliminates the RSC and replaces it with two separate 29 stakeholder groups, Tribal and Local Government Group and Affected Stakeholder Group 30 (Groups), who will only communicate with Unified Command through the Responsible Party's 31 32 Liaison Officer; and 33 WHEREAS, The proposed changes negatively impact the City of Homer's participation 34 in protecting critical resources and compromises the region's overall response effectiveness 35 36 to hazardous spills by: No longer guaranteeing direct access to the Unified Command. Communication 37 only through the Responsible Party's Liaison Officer does not guarantee that 38 community issues will be accurately communicated back to government officials 39

within the Unified Command:

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- Disrupting cooperative and collaborative decision making opportunities that currently occur when stakeholders work as one joint group under a Regional Stakeholder Committee to improve the spill response effort;
- Decreasing access to information about how the spill will be cleaned up. Only limited portions of the IAP may be provided to the Tribal and Local Government Group that the Responsible Party's Liaison Officer deems to be pertinent. There is no mention of any portions of the IAP being provided to the Affected Stakeholders Group. Yet, the IAP is the plan the Responsible Party develops to clean up the spill and provides detail critical to providing meaningful input to the response;
- Eliminating the ability for experts within the proposed Affected Stakeholders Group, such as RCACs, from providing expertise on incident priorities, objectives and the IAP, or other technical or scientific matters. Communication of complex technical, operational, and scientific advice would not be effective using this proposed communication system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council requests the proposed update to Annex B of the Unified Plan be withdrawn and the existing Regional Stakeholder Committee process be retained.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 25th day of April, 2016.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E. WYTHE MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Harch 31.196A

Fiscal Note: N/A