

1 By: Luke Hopkins
2 Introduced: 10/12/06
3 Adotped: 10/12/06
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6 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

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8 RESOLUTION NO. 2006 - 39
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10 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROMOTION OF LOCAL AWARENESS OF CLIMATE
11 CHANGE IMPACTS IN ALASKA.
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13 WHEREAS, scientific consensus has identified that carbon dioxide (CO2)
14 and other greenhouse gases may have a strong effect on the Earth's climate; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2001, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed
17 and declared global warming a real problem caused in part by human activities; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2006, the twenty-third Alaska State Legislature created the
20 Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission to develop a comprehensive plan to
21 address climate change issues, prevent or mitigate negative effects of climate change,
22 and address economic effects on the state will help protect public health, preserve
23 economic and resource development, and protect valuable infrastructure; and
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25 WHEREAS, the University of Alaska has provided additional funding to
26 research changes occurring in the Arctic in support of the 2007 International Polar Year,
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, University of Alaska Fairbanks research has observed
30 increased average air temperatures in Alaska over the past 40 years, and, based on a
31 moderate gas emissions scenario, further temperature increases are projected over the
32 next 100 years; and
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34 WHEREAS, the once vast expanse of Arctic sea ice has had its fourth
35 straight year of below average cover, with winter ice sharply reduced and the spring
36 melt starting earlier, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center; and
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38 WHEREAS, climate change poses a serious long term threat to the
39 economy and security of Alaska, including the possible relocation of coastal villages at a
40 cost of more than \$100 million per village; and
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42 WHEREAS, forest fires, insect infestations, and other disturbances are
43 projected to continue to increase in frequency and intensity in a warming climate leading
44 to increased destruction of extensive natural forest resources, negatively impacting
45 Interior Alaska as a visitor destination and reducing the quality of life for residents of our
46 Borough; and

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48 WHEREAS, warming permafrost throughout most of Alaska is
49 undermining local roads and utility infrastructure, pipelines and buildings, affecting the
50 availability of groundwater and surface water, contributing to increased erosion along
51 coasts and rivers; and costing millions of dollars for repair and lowering the value of the
52 tax base for municipalities; and

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54 WHEREAS, more than 200 municipal and city government across the
55 United States are taking responsibility to understand, identify and measure local
56 indicators of climate change, consider local benefits of developing methods and
57 technologies for the reduction of green house gases as local community responses to
58 Global Warming; and

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60 WHEREAS, possible actions taken to mitigate climate impacts through
61 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are expected to provide specific economic
62 benefits to our communities through improvement in energy efficiencies for housing,
63 electrical usage, and city transportation and other sectors, public and private; and

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65 WHEREAS, citizens of our Borough have taken actions to reduce
66 dependency on fossil fuel based energy generation, to reduce green house gas
67 emissions through alternative solar energy projects and geothermal energy used to
68 generate local off grid electric power at the Chena Hot Springs community.

69 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star
70 Borough Assembly recognizes a responsibility to develop a community understanding of
71 the potential impacts, risks, and opportunities of climate change and learn what local
72 actions can be taken and then consider appropriate steps to address these issues; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough
75 Assembly supports the ongoing and additional arctic research activities occurring at the
76 University of Alaska Fairbanks during the International Polar Year; and

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78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough
79 Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature and the United States Congress to move
80 forward on programs to cap or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate further
81 development and adoption of renewable energy technologies, promote additional
82 research to improve the science and forecasting of global climate change, and to
83 identify strategies that best mitigate and adapt to climate changes important to
84 Alaskans; and

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86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution are sent to the
87 Alaska Interior Delegation, Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski and the Alaska
88 Congressional Delegation.

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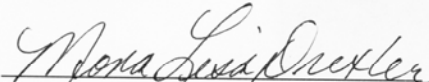
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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER 2006.



Luke Hopkins
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

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Ayes: Beck, Hargesheimer, Sattley, Therrien, Rex, Hopkins
Noes: None
Excused: Batots, Frank, Foote