

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Please see attached resolution adopted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly on February 25, 2020.

Introduced by: Dunne, Cooper
Date: 02/25/20
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2020-015**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CURRENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS
OF THE STATE OF ALASKA REGARDING OIL SPILL
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill devastated Alaska’s coastal communities, economies, wildlife, cultural and natural resources, and caused damage that reverberates to this day; and

WHEREAS, after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Alaska citizens and the Alaska Legislature worked together to enact the strongest oil spill protection laws in the nation to keep our waters, beaches, fish and wildlife oil free which have proven successful for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the regulations have been revised on nine occasions for clarification and streamlining, to make contingency planning and review less onerous, as well as more predictable and expeditious; and

WHEREAS, industry has complied with these laws and regulations successfully for 30 profitable years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of post-Exxon Valdez oil spill laws and regulations, Alaska has world-class oil spill prevention and response requirements to protect its people and its environment, as well as commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture, recreation, tourism, subsistence, and cultural interests; and

WHEREAS, after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, the U.S. Congress cited complacency on the part of industry and regulators as a key contributing factor to the spill; and

WHEREAS, one way to combat this complacency and rebuild trust is to involve the public, those with the most to lose in the event of a large spill, in decisions that affect the safe transportation of oil; and

WHEREAS, oil spill contingency plans required by current laws and regulations are the industry’s commitment to Alaskans that they are prepared to effectively respond in the event of a significant future catastrophic spill or situation; and

WHEREAS, oil spill contingency plans are a critical component of ensuring the safe transportation, production and exploration of oil and represent rigorous but achievable standards; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, Jason Brune, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (“ADEC”) issued a public scoping notice seeking input on existing regulations and statutes (laws) and that his department has identified regulations that can be eliminated or significantly reformed; and

WHEREAS, rolling back or eliminating proven oil spill prevention and response requirements to reduce a perceived burden to industry transfers the risk and burden of another oil spill onto the backs of our communities, citizens, and environment; and

WHEREAS, ADEC Commissioner Brune committed to the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Councils’ Board of Directors a fully transparent public review and consultation process; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brune further informed the board that ADEC has no desire to roll back the environmental protections in place, and that preparedness and protection are vital;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1 That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly firmly supports Alaska’s existing Oil Spill Response Planning Standards and rigorous regulatory oversight.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly believes that Alaska’s laws and regulations regarding oil spill prevention and response warrant the state’s continued, unqualified support and enactment.

SECTION 3. That Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly strongly recommends that Alaskans interested in maintaining safety standards designed to protect the state’s environment, people, and economy from catastrophic oil spills contact the ADEC to urge continued support of Alaska’s current laws and regulations regarding oil spill prevention and response.

SECTION 4. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Kenai Peninsula Borough state legislative delegation, ADEC Commissioner Brune, Governor Dunleavy, Director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council, and Director of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.


SECTION 5. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

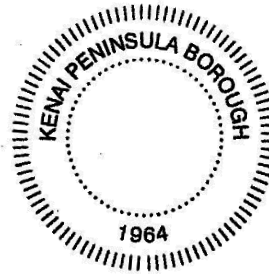


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Dunne, Hibbert, Johnson, Smalley, Cooper
No: Bjorkman
Absent: None