

Introduced by: Drathman
Date: 12/07/93
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 93-131

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE'S PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND VISITOR
EDUCATION FACILITY IN HOMER, ALASKA**

- WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska contains more coastline than any other state; and
- WHEREAS**, the health of the marine environment supports important fish and wildlife species upon which this nation and the Kenai Peninsula Borough depends; and
- WHEREAS**, the public's knowledge of the marine ecosystem is necessary to provide protection and continued wise use of the ecosystem; and
- WHEREAS**, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1980 to manage 3.5 million acres of offshore islands and coastal habitat that extends from Forrester Island in southeastern Alaska to the tip of the Aleutian Chain and north to the Arctic Ocean; and
- WHEREAS**, more seabirds nest on the refuge than on the remainder of the entire North American continent; and
- WHEREAS**, seabirds are the principle resource, other refuge resources include Steller sea lion rookeries, otters and other marine mammals, hundreds of species of migrating birds, volcanoes, and Native, Russian-American, and World War II sites; and
- WHEREAS**, the extreme size and remoteness of the refuge makes personal visitation difficult while the proposed visitor center site in Homer, Alaska is accessible; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed facility would include a 16,000 square foot visitor center, a 10,000 square foot refuge office, and support facilities consisting of an 8,000 square foot bunkhouse, a 6,300 square foot warehouse, a 6,600 square foot shop, and a 4,000 square foot vehicle storage area; and
- WHEREAS**, the visitor center will include 5,000 square feet of exhibits on the marine resources of the refuge, a live seabird exhibit, environmental education classroom, labs and outside activity area, nature trails, and an auditorium and refuge film; and

WHEREAS, 100,000 people are expected to visit the facility annually including at least 4,000 students who will participate in the facility's environmental education program; and

WHEREAS, the completed Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge facility will provide an affordable and accessible learning opportunity about the entire marine coastal environment to students, residents, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a 60.5 acre Homer site was purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1992, the first phase of design was completed, and the money has been appropriated by Congress for the remainder of the design;

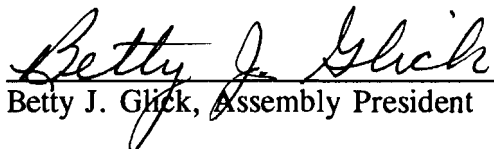
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to continue to support and obtain funding for the completion of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge facility in Homer, Alaska.

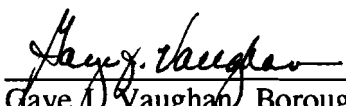
SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY THIS 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1993.


Betty J. Glick, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Gaye J. Vaughan, Borough Clerk