

By: Luke Hopkins  
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FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2006 - 39

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROMOTION OF LOCAL AWARENESS OF CLIMATE  
CHANGE IMPACTS IN ALASKA.

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has identified that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases may have a strong effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem caused in part by human activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the twenty-third Alaska State Legislature created the Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission to develop a comprehensive plan to address climate change issues, prevent or mitigate negative effects of climate change, and address economic effects on the state will help protect public health, preserve economic and resource development, and protect valuable infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska has provided additional funding to research changes occurring in the Arctic in support of the 2007 International Polar Year, and

WHEREAS, University of Alaska Fairbanks research has observed increased average air temperatures in Alaska over the past 40 years, and, based on a moderate gas emissions scenario, further temperature increases are projected over the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the once vast expanse of Arctic sea ice has had its fourth straight year of below average cover, with winter ice sharply reduced and the spring melt starting earlier, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses a serious long term threat to the economy and security of Alaska, including the possible relocation of coastal villages at a cost of more than \$100 million per village; and

WHEREAS, forest fires, insect infestations, and other disturbances are projected to continue to increase in frequency and intensity in a warming climate leading to increased destruction of extensive natural forest resources, negatively impacting Interior Alaska as a visitor destination and reducing the quality of life for residents of our Borough; and

47  
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  
53

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  
59

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  
64

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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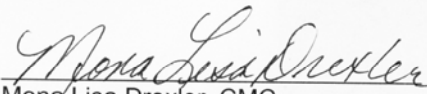
78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough  
79 Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature and the United States Congress to move  
80 forward on programs to cap or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate further  
81 development and adoption of renewable energy technologies, promote 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  
85

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.  
89

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2006.

  
Luke Hopkins  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC  
Municipal Borough Clerk

Ayes: Beck, Hargesheimer, Sattley, Therrien, Rex, Hopkins

Noes: None

Excused: Batots, Frank, Foote