

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 (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
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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WHEREAS, warming permafrost throughout most of Alaska is undermining local roads and utility infrastructure, pipelines and buildings, affecting the availability of groundwater and surface water, contributing to increased erosion along coasts and rivers; and costing millions of dollars for repair and lowering the value of the tax base for municipalities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

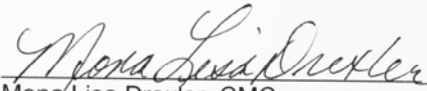
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution are sent to the Alaska Interior Delegation, Honorable Governor Frank Murkowski and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

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

  
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Luke Hopkins  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
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Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC  
Municipal Borough Clerk

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