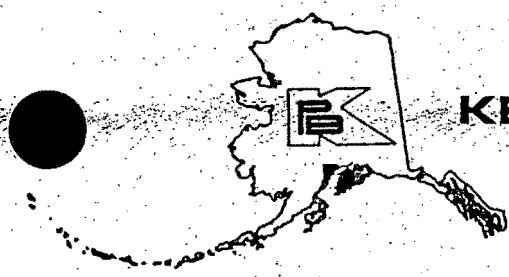


15.3.4

15,3.4



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 N. BINKLEY • SOLDOTNA, ALASKA • 99669-7599  
BUSINESS (907) 262-4441 FAX (907) 262-1892

MIKE NAVARRE  
MAYOR

September 17, 1997

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 1997

Molly McCammon  
Executive Director  
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
645 G Street, Suite 401  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms McCammon:

I am again writing to express my continued support and enthusiasm for the work of the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council in acquiring key tracts of land for permanent resource protection. I am especially thankful for the work that has been done throughout the Kenai Peninsula, and the ongoing efforts to protect the last undeveloped properties on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough.

In support of these efforts, and following the Trustees Council's decision to recognize the nine properties submitted for acquisition as 'parcels meriting special consideration', the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly recently passed a resolution supporting the City of Homer's efforts to have these properties acquired with Small Parcel program funding. I have enclosed a copy of the resolution for your information.

The purchase of these properties will protect the unique and diverse resources associated with the Spit and the Slough, thereby enhancing economic growth associated with tourism. With Resolution 97-067, the Assembly recognizes the limited window of opportunity available to purchase property from willing sellers in order to maintain the quality of life for Peninsula residents and the growing number of visitors we host each year.

Again, I thank you for your support of restoration activities in the spill-affected areas of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I strongly encourage you to support the acquisition of properties on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough now under consideration by the Trustees Council.

Sincerely,

Mike Navarre  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

Enclosure: Resolution

Introduced

Drathman

Date:

09/16/97

Action:

Approved

Vote:

Unanimous

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 97-067**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE CITY OF  
HOMER REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS ON THE  
HOMER SPIT AND IN THE BELUGA SLOUGH BY THE  
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Homer supports the nomination of nine parcels of land, including approximately 68 acres on the Homer Spit and 40 acres in the Beluga Slough, as intertidal lands meriting special consideration for small parcel funding; and

**WHEREAS,** there have been few purchases to date of this kind of low-lying coastal habitat under the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill acquisition program; and

**WHEREAS,** the owners of these lands are willing to sell them to protect what has been identified as critical habitat to animal species and the subsistence and recreational activities affected by the spill; and

**WHEREAS,** the Homer Spit has a long history of public use for clamming, fishing and other recreational purposes; and

**WHEREAS,** commercial development has significantly reduced land available on the Homer Spit for public use and acquiring these lands for the public, subject to a conservation easement, would protect these properties from development and provide a valuable opportunity to help preserve the quality and way of life historically enjoyed in this area; and

**WHEREAS,** the entire Beluga Slough provides vital shorebird habitat; and

**WHEREAS,** the 40-acre Beluga Slough parcel available for sale is the most significant unprotected property remaining in the Slough as it is completely surrounded by protected property and, if developed, would compromise all of the previous efforts taken to protect this resource; and

**WHEREAS,** acquiring these parcels for such purposes would help Homer's growing nature-based tourism industry, which is critical to the health of the local economy and the creation of diverse job opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** the Trust for Public Land, together with the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, have nominated such lands for acquisition, and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has declared them as "properties meriting special consideration;" and

**WHEREAS,** the acquisition of these unique properties will assist the ongoing work of the U.S. Fish and wildlife service and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in protecting the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough;

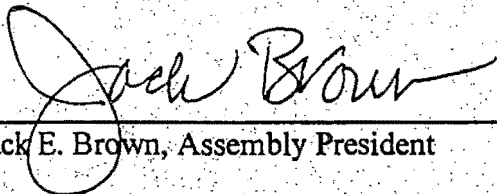
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports the City of Homer's efforts to encourage the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to buy these lands for habitat protection and recreational purposes.

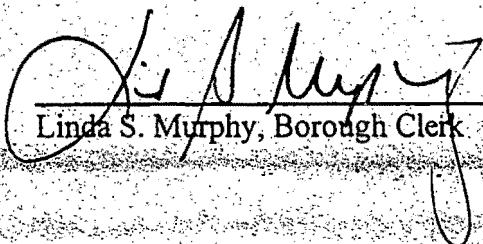
**SECTION 2.** That copies of this resolution shall be mailed to the City of Homer, the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, area Legislators and the Governor of Alaska

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

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack E. Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

## Distribution List

Deborah Williams, Special Assistant to Secretary/Alaska, Dept of Interior  
Commissioner Michele Brown, DEC  
Molly McCammon, Executive Director, Exxon Valdez Trustee Council  
Phil Janik, Alaska Regional Forester, Forest Service  
Steven Pennoyer, Alaska Region Director, National Marine Fisheries, NOAA  
Commissioner Frank Rue, Dept of Fish & Game  
Craig Tillery, Assistant Attorney General, State of Alaska  
Governor Tony Knowles  
Glenn Elison, Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Lisa Parker, Planning Director, Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Mayor Jack Cushing, City of Homer

via fax:

Barbara Seaman, Executive Director, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust - (907) 235-5263  
Chris Rogers, Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land/Seattle - (206) 382-3414

Debbie Drissell  
1003 W. Evelyn St.  
Lewistown, MT 59457

September 16, 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
6456 G Street, Suite 400  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to encourage you to acquire the critical shorebird habitat along the Homer Spit and adjacent Beluga Slough bordering Kachemak Bay. As a bird watcher, I have visited this area numerous times. This is certainly one of the world's major shorebird habitats and needs to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Drissell*

Debbie Drissell


15 September 1997

To EVOSTC,

I am writing in support of the move for the Trustees to purchase land on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough on Kachemak Bay. This is an area that I expect to visit on my next trip to Alaska because of its status as a shorebird staging area. If it is protected, the birds and the people will both benefit.

I hope that you will approve the proposed small parcel purchase.

Sincerely,

  
Mark M. Stevenson  
4201 E Monte Vista Dr #J207  
Tucson, AZ 85712

RECEIVED  
SEP 11 1997

EXXON OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Cal Keppler  
7006 Ronjoy Place  
Boardman, Ohio 44512-4353

9-21-97

*EVOS Trustee Council:*

*Please utilize a substantial amount of the funds available to acquire critical shorebird habitat along the Homer Spit & adjacent Beluga Slough near Homer, Alaska.*

*I'm a serious birder & have been to your state twice & travelled from Attu & Gambell to Nome & Homer. I expect to return again to see more birds. Pls protect their habitat. Respectfully,*

*Cal*

**RECEIVED**

SEP 25 1997

**EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL**



Lois S. Fay  
P.O. Box 154, 60 Park Road  
Charlton City  
Mass. 01508

Sept 23, 1997

Dear Council members,

As an avid naturalist and birder, I read "Winging It" regularly. In the September 97 issue, I read that you are considering the acquisition of critical shorebird habitat along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough near Homer.

I'm just a working wife who probably will never get to see Alaska's natural beauties for lack of funds. But, my husband's military experience afforded him the opportunity to live <sup>in</sup> and love Alaska. His descriptions of the area have filled me with a longing to share the joy. I hope you will be able to preserve those places so important to shorebirds.

Thank you for your consideration.

RECEIVED

SEP 29 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Sincerely,

Lois S. Fay

1

September 17, 1997

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
645 G Street, Ste 400  
Anchorage AK 99501

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Re: Shorebird Habitat along the Homer Spit & adjacent Beluga Slough

Dear EVOS:

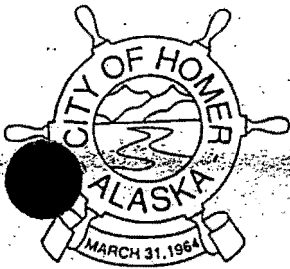
I am writing in support of proposal for funds for the above location as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Since Kachemak Bay hosts atleast 100,000 migrating shorebirds each spring, it seems appropriate to help protect this habitat for them. In addition, the City of Homer supports this acquisition and is already working to improve the area for birds and birdwatchers. It seems to me this kind of community support will have a multiplier effect on the contribution of funds for this acquisition.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Melissa K. Winn*

Melissa K. Winn  
4242 Irving Ave No  
Minneapolis MN 55412



# Office of the Mayor

Jack Cushing

(907) 235-8121

Homer City Hall 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603 Fax 235-3140

September 12, 1997

Frank Rue  
Commissioner  
State of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99802

SEP 18 1997  
DEPT. OF FISH & GAME  
COMM. AFFAIRS OFFICE

Dear Mr. Rue:

I am writing again to call your attention to the City of Homer's efforts to protect 115 acres of undeveloped land on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough and to encourage your support of EVOS Small Parcel Program Funding to make the permanent protection of this land possible.

This week the Homer City Council passed Resolution 97-72 (attached) in support of the Homer community's effort to secure \$1.3 million in EVOS funds to purchase 69 acres of critical intertidal habitat on Mud Bay, nearly 40 acres and the last major undeveloped property on Beluga Slough, and 6 acres of beachfront habitat across from the public fishing hole on the Homer Spit. The City Council's resolution was passed in recognition of the importance that conservation of these two highly visible and widely visited areas have to Homer's quality of life as well as its economic future.

Over the years, the City of Homer has supported the efforts by the State of Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private organizations to protect the resources of Kachemak Bay, the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. This included the establishment of both the Kachemak Bay and Beluga Slough Critical Habitat Areas, the nomination of Kachemak Bay as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the bay's designation as a site within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's purchase of land within Beluga Slough and its current efforts to establish a visitor's center there. The City has also recently agreed to donate a permanent conservation easement on 26 acres of City-owned land on the Homer Spit, which may be a first for a municipality in Alaska. The City of Homer is very appreciative of the State and Federal governments' ongoing efforts to protect the Spit and Slough, and hopes you will maintain the momentum of your previous efforts by supporting the City's highest conservation priorities in these unique and important areas that soon could be altered by inappropriate development.

The City would also again like to express its willingness to the Trustees Council to become the long-term steward of property purchased with EVOS Small Parcel program which would free both the State and Federal government of long-term management responsibilities.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

*Jack Cushing*  
Jack Cushing, Mayor

HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 97-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL - HOMER SPIT  
AND BELUGA SLOUGH LAND CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the nomination of eight (8) properties on the Homer Spit and one (1) property in Beluga Slough to the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council as parcels meriting special consideration for small parcel program funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the acquisition of these properties on a willing seller basis to protect intertidal lands that have been identified as critical habitat to animal species, and the subsistence and recreational activities affected by the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer recognizes that the protection of these properties as open space will help maintain the quality of life for residents of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, and provide educational opportunities for schools and other educational institutions for generations to come; and


WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the protection of these properties as key to the growth of a nature-based tourism industry that continues to enhance the City's economic base and provides new and diverse job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer recognizes that the protection of these properties will assist the ongoing work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to identify and protect the unique resources of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Homer, Alaska supports the purchase of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough properties identified by the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council as parcels meeting special consideration for permanent conservation purposes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1997 by the Homer City Council.

CITY OF HOMER

  
JACK CUSHING, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
MARY L. CALHOUN, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: na

# ALSTON & BIRD LLP

One Atlantic Center  
1201 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3424

404-881-7000  
Fax: 404-881-4777

RECEIVED  
SEP 26 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Pierre Howard

Direct Dial: 404-881-7575

9-22-97

*To the Members of the Council,*

*As a member of The American Building Association, I am writing to encourage the acquisition of certain shorebird habitat along Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The preservation of such habitat is a matter of true importance to me as an American and as Lieutenant Governor of Georgia.*

*Sincerely,*

*Pierre Howard*



## National Audubon Society



## ALASKA STATE OFFICE

308 G Street, Suite 217

Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel: (907) 276-7034

Fax: (907) 276-5069

September 24, 1997

Frank Rue  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

Dear Frank:

I would like to offer this letter as an additional follow up to my brief presentation before the EVOS Trustee Council this summer regarding acquisition of properties on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. Audubon continues to believe that purchase of these lands under the EVOS acquisition program makes a great deal of sense. Both the Mud Bay site and the Beluga Slough provide important habitat for shorebirds (a priority for Audubon members) and other marine life that was significantly impacted by the oil spill.

This purchase is logical because of federal, state, and local interest in the protection of these two parcels. Not only are both sites biologically important, but they are also used recreationally and enjoyed extensively by locals and visitors and contribute to Homer's expanding visitor industry. Both sites also offer significant educational potential for school programs. There is strong interest in developing a cooperative Homer Marine Science Center shared between the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge and the National Estuarine Research Reserve and located on a 60 acre parcel (already purchased for this purpose) on Beluga Slough. Purchasing the last 40-acre Beluga Slough parcel would ensure protection of this important ecosystem and provide outstanding recreational and education opportunities in Homer. If this property is developed, it will compromise the entire Beluga Slough ecosystem.

I believe acquisition of these intertidal properties on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough is important because they are accessible and recognized by so many people. This would provide an opportunity for the public to see how these funds were used and the multiple benefits derived from them. There is substantial public support for acquisition of these sites. I hope you will consider their value when you make your upcoming decisions.

The Alaska Audubon Society is a broad-based, conservation organization that applies sound science and common sense to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout Alaska. We have four chapters in the state with a membership of over 2,200. We are closely affiliated with the National Audubon Society with a national membership of over 550,000.

The acquisition of these valuable properties in Homer is one of Audubon's high priority issues in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



John W. Schoen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: Molly McCammon, Executive Director, EVOS