

**RESOLUTION NO. 4705**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE OF ALASKA'S REQUEST TO  
THE EPA TO DIVIDE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
NONATTAINMENT AREA**

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2015, the State of Alaska sent a letter requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) divide the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) nonattainment area into two separate nonattainment areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the current FNSB nonattainment area was originally formed in 2009 when the area failed to meet the federal health-based 24-hour air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>); and

**WHEREAS**, the State recommends Badger Road as the boundary to divide the area: the City of Fairbanks and the western half of the current nonattainment area would be one nonattainment area; the second nonattainment area would contain the area east of Badger Road within the current nonattainment area, including the City of North Pole; and

**WHEREAS**, there are significant differences between the western and eastern halves of the current nonattainment area: in 2014, the western half of the area recorded a clean data year at the Fairbanks downtown monitors, while the eastern half monitored much higher levels of pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, if the request to divide is approved, the State Department of Environmental Conservation would be required to maintain two separate plans, one for each area with control measures tailored to the source and magnitude of the pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, if the western half of the current nonattainment area has a clean data year in 2015 and the EPA approves the State's request, then it is possible that the western half may be able to continue to rely on current measures to improve and maintain good air quality and avoid increasingly more burdensome and restrictive control measures; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the differences between the eastern and western halves of the current nonattainment area allows for air quality plans and controls that best fit the situation for each location and allows for resources to be targeted where they are most needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Air Act allows the EPA to take up to 18 months to respond to the Request to Divide, and if the EPA took the full allotted time, their response may be received as late as May 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, a response by the EPA to the Request to Divide prior to the expected designation by the EPA of the current area as a serious non-attainment area in June 2016 will

allow for a more streamlined focus in the development of the associated plans to address air quality;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Fairbanks City Council fully supports the State of Alaska's request to the Environmental Protection Agency to divide the Fairbanks North Star Borough nonattainment area into two separate nonattainment areas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Fairbanks City Council encourages the EPA to act promptly on the State's request.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 11th day of January 2016.

---

**John Eberhart, Mayor  
City of Fairbanks**

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: January 11, 2016

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

---

D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk

---

Paul Ewers, City Attorney