

Senator Peter A. Micciche  
*Alaska State Legislature*

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June 18, 2020

Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell, Jr.  
United States Coast Guard  
Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District

RE: Docket Number: USCG-2020-0188; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Admiral Bell:

I am writing in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). For 30 years, CIRCAC has been Cook Inlet's most effective organization for promoting programs to prevent spills, enhance safety in both marine transportation and oil facilities operations, and protect Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources.

I value the organization's ability to represent and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. The citizens I represent are among the many beneficiaries of the research and studies they have done through their coastal habitats, biological and chemical monitoring, oil behavior, and physical oceanography programs.

Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed and strengthened partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings a varied group of stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

CIRCAC has been proactive in identifying risks and developing recommendations to address them; an example is the recently completed Cook Inlet Pipeline Integrity Assessment. Through this project, a full catalog of Cook Inlet's undersea pipeline system was documented allowing a panel of experts, operators and the public to recommend risk reduction measures before problems arise.

Working with industry, CIRCAC has also been able to achieve the long-term goal of closing the Drift River Oil Terminal on the West side of Cook Inlet. Situated at the base of Mt. Redoubt, Drift River posed a significant safety hazard in the event of a natural disaster. Now, that oil is transported via pipeline, greatly reducing unnecessary risk.

I look forward to continuing this positive relationship and respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Micciche".

Senator Peter A. Micciche

