



Alaska's Institute of Technology

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister
Commander – 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
709 W. 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Attn: Lt. Jonathan Dale
Docket Number: USCG-2017-0289

Dear Admiral McAllister,

On behalf of AVTEC, it is my pleasure to write in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC).

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. Among their many accomplishments, CIRCAC has:

- Spearheaded efforts to fund and complete a comprehensive Navigation Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet.
- Developed Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) project for Cook Inlet, which led to a statewide program of these site-specific oil spill response plans.
- Established an ice camera network that provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions for ice forecasters to increase navigation safety.

Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet. AVTEC is proud to be a partner with the CIRCAC for simulations and ice navigation training.

I strongly urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Kind regards,

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