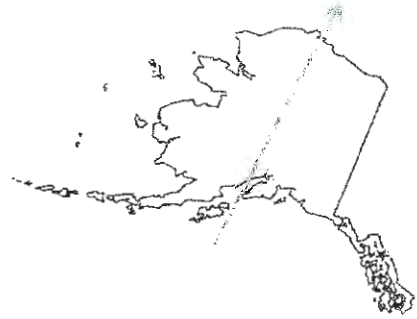


152 Degrees West Environmental Services LLC
P. O. Box 264
Kenai, Alaska
99611



June 24th, 2020

Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell
U.S. Coast Guard Commander, 17th Coast Guard District

Re: Application for Recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council,
Docket Number: USCG-2020-0188

Dear Admiral Bell,

As a resident of Alaska with over 30 years of oil spill response and management experience including, State on Scene Coordinator with the state of Alaska. I have seen first-hand the importance of community engagement during all phases of oil spill preparedness. I support and encourage the recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC).

The public's ability to access information on the multiple aspects of oil spill issues is in many cases limited. The *Regional Citizens Advisory Council* concept can reduce these limitations and enhance awareness of the important role our communities can provide in ensuring safe oil management practices and regulatory effectiveness.

Section 5002 (a)(2)(D) of OPA 90 states;

(D) a mechanism should be established which fosters the long-term partnership of industry, government, and local communities in overseeing compliance with environmental concerns in the operation of crude oil terminals;

CIRCAC clearly meets this objective, and de-certification would be a devastating to all parties engaged in this important effort.

CIRCAC's commitment to sound oil spill management is not limited to recovery of oil on water. The role the organization plays in our Cook Inlet communities cannot be overstated. CIRCAC encourages stakeholder and the general public's participation in prevention, by providing a platform for open dialog and engagements between the public, regulators and industry relating to; regulatory compliance, industry production/development, and project status.

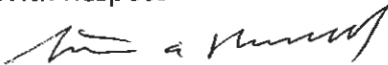
In addition, scientific research including; oceanography, habitat, recovery equipment enhancements, and oil spill response management and organization.

CIRCAC board members and staff are committed to the concept that oil spills within our region, have the potential to significantly impact not only our environment, but our economy, our rich culture, and the social well-being of our communities.

Most all Alaskans support sound and responsible development of natural resources within our region, CIRCACs role in providing sound leadership to the members of the Cook Inlet *Response Community* has for decades demonstrated that oil production and development, marine transport, and terminal/pipeline operations can be conducted safely within some of the harshest environmental conditions of any US oil operation.

I support the re-certification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council and look forward to working with them in the future to enhance environmental responsibility for the Cook Inlet Region.

With Respect

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Russell", written in a cursive style.

Steven Russell

Managing Member

152 Degrees West Environmental Services LLC