

# Alaska State Legislature



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Majority Whip

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Transportation Committee

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Rules Committee  
Labor and Commerce Committee  
Legislative Council

**REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES**

**District 32**

**Kodiak-Cordova-Yakutat**

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Date: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To: Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister  
Commander – 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
709 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

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

Re: CIRCAC recertification

Dear Rear Admiral McAllister,

I am in full support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC).

CIRCAC was established after the Exxon Valdez oil spill and has worked diligently since then to fulfill its mission of preventing spills, enhancing safety in both marine transportation and oil facilities operations, and protecting Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources.

CIRCAC works with industry and regulators to ensure response readiness, evaluate risks, and propose solutions. Examples of important CIRCAC projects include:

- 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.
- Compiled an extensive body of research on Cook Inlet's biology, chemistry, geomorphology, contaminants, and oceanography.
- Led Alaska portion of National Coastal Assessment in Southcentral Alaska.
- Conducted first ShoreZone coastal habitat mapping project in Alaska and developed online data portal, which has since developed into a statewide, multi-organizational partnership. ([www.shorezone.org](http://www.shorezone.org)).
- Developed Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) as an online data portal at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- Established an ice camera network that provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions for ice forecasters to increase navigation safety.

- Conducts a robust oil spill Contingency Plan review process and is often the only public voice that weighs in on these complex documents
- Actively participating in Incident Command System during agency and industry oil spill drills and during actual response actions.
- Contributed to development of Cook Inlet's first Harbor Safety Plan.

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.

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.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Stutes". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.