

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-3779
Toll Free: 800-469-3779



145 Main St. Loop
Suite 223
Kenai, Alaska 99611
Phone: 907-283-7223

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT HOUSE DISTRICT 29

May 30, 2017

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;

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.

Not only does CIRCAC advocate for better regulatory oversight and safety measures, they contribute concrete solutions on how to achieve those goals, including conducting risk assessments, sharing data, developing applicable tools and strategies, evaluate best available technology, public engagement, and thoroughly review contingency plans and regulations that prioritize prevention while promoting safety.

CIRCAC has been proactive in identifying risks and concrete recommendations to address them. Before the series of recent leaks in Cook Inlet, CIRCAC was already in the process of updating its 2000 subsea pipeline report and is now actively participating in scoping out a pipeline risk assessment with federal and state agency partners. CIRCAC also prompted the State to review policies and procedures in conducting oil spill response. Throughout all the incidents, CIRCAC was heavily involved in monitoring and providing resources. They were an active participant in the Unified Command for the Platform Anna spill providing local knowledge and expertise to influence the response. CIRCAC also served as a subject matter expert in the environmental monitoring plan following the Platform A gas line leak and participated in overflights to monitor impacts.

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 welcome opportunities to work together with the Board of Directors, Committees and staff and share information that can make oil facility operations and marine transportation in the Inlet safer. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Chenault".

Representative Mike Chenault