

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov

June 6, 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

I am writing in 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 to promote environmentally safe operations, prevent spills, and protect the Cook Inlet's waters. Their work with regulatory oversight, conducting risk assessments, and public engagements are vital to sustain Cook Inlet resources and the industries that rely on them. In addition, CIRCAC contributes concrete solutions, helps with developing strategies, and reviews contingency plans that improve prevention and safety within the area.

CIRCAC has also worked hard to develop partnerships and relationships with stakeholders. With the state they have reviewed and updated policies and procedures in oil spill response. They share their research which helps in developing site-specific oil spill response plans. Their ice camera network provides real-time imagery of ice conditions for forecasting and navigation. They provide regular education to the public to increase their engagement. CIRCAC has proven a valuable organization that has provided a positive impact for our environment, citizens and resources.

I strongly encourage you to recertify CIRCAC as the citizens' advisory group for Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Seaton".

Rep. Paul Seaton