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June 25, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel Abel
Docket Management Facility (M-30)
U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building
Ground Floor, Room W12-140
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket Number USCG-2014-0414

Dear Admiral:

I am writing in support of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) and to urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify this advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o). I write this from two perspectives: one as Executive Director of the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) and the second, on a personal basis, as the municipality of Anchorage representative to the Council.

AOOS has partnered with CIRCAC in the past on a number of projects, including development of the Cook Inlet Response Tool, an ERMA-like data integration tool for use by emergency responders and managers. As a member of the Environmental Monitoring Committee, we work closely with CIRCAC staff to increase ocean and coastal observations in Cook Inlet to meet stakeholder needs, especially navigation safety. CIRCAC staff have been very helpful in supporting the AOOS wave buoy off Anchor Point, and in developing an operational ocean forecast model with NOAA. All of our dealings with CIRCAC staff and members have been highly professional. They provide a strong voice for oil spill prevention and response and have been strong supporters of our programs to develop tools in response to that need.

From a CIRCAC board member perspective (and having represented three different Anchorage mayors during my tenure), I think CIRCAC has done an excellent job at working with the oil and gas industry in this region and promoting environmentally safe operations. The RCAC is very much in touch with the views of the citizens who live in and use Cook Inlet.

I urge you to recertify CIRCAC as the citizens' advisory group for Cook Inlet.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Molly McCammon'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly McCammon

Executive Director