

# Alaska State Legislature

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senate Majority Leader  
Senate District E  
907-465-4843



120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alaska State Capitol,  
Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

July 13, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan Dean  
17th District Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802

Subject: CIRCAC Recertification Docket Number: USCG-2023-0392

Admiral Dean,

I write to you supporting the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). CIRCAC's work has been crucial to preserving the balance between effective marine transportation and hydrocarbon extraction while proactively maintaining the safety of Cook Inlet's waters and shorelines, as well as its cultural and natural resources.

CIRCAC is an organization that recognizes the importance of its oversight and regulatory role while also working towards solutions to issues that affect different stakeholder groups. The Cook Inlet is home to the state's largest population centers, southcentral Alaska's largest source of energy, the state's largest port, and some of the most important watersheds in North America. CIRCAC has a record that prioritizes prevention, public engagement, information sharing, and integrating best practices to keep the resiliency of the Inlet.

In the past couple years, several issues regarding oil and natural gas infrastructure in the Cook Inlet brought widespread attention and concern. During all the incidents, CIRCAC played a material role that provided subject matter expertise and local knowledge that contributed to the response strategies.

CIRCAC works to diversify its outreach to communities and stakeholders. The formation of the Tourism Group, for example, includes stakeholders from tourism marketing councils, regional chambers of commerce, and other tourism representatives. CIRCAC is working to maintain the Cook Inlet and its attractions as a place that draws people from around the world to Alaska in a safe and sustainable manner.

The record of CIRCAC is of an organization that is consensus driven, and works from the local level upwards, achieving legitimacy from the numerous interests in the region. I appreciate CIRCAC being an important source of information that policymakers at the local, state, and federal level can leverage when contemplating important decisions in the region.

As I wrote in 2014, 2017, and 2020, I look forward, once again, to continuing the positive relationship CIRCAC fosters. I respectfully request the United State Coast Guard approve the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council's application for recertification.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Giessel".

Senator Cathy Giessel

[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)