



**Office of the Mayor and Council**

710 Mill Bay Road, Room 219, Kodiak, Alaska 99615

June 21, 2017

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

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

Dear Rear Admiral McAllister:

On behalf of the City of Kodiak, Alaska, I would like to express the City's support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Cook Inlet RCAC 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.

No other organization has focused as much attention for as many years to identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region. Not only does Cook Inlet RCAC 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, evaluating best available technology, engaging the public, and thoroughly reviewing contingency plans and regulations that prioritize prevention while promoting safety.

We value the organization's ability to represent and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. Our relationship with Cook Inlet RCAC has been important to enhancing our understanding of the region, and we are among the many beneficiaries of the research and studies they have done through their coastal habitats, biological and chemical monitoring, oil behavior, and physical oceanography programs. As a named reviewer of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) for crude oil exploration, production, and transportation facilities, Cook Inlet RCAC proves its tremendous value on an ongoing basis. We 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.

Cook Inlet RCAC has been proactive in identifying risks and concrete recommendations to address them. Before the series of recent leaks in Cook Inlet, Cook Inlet RCAC 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. Cook Inlet RCAC also prompted the State to review policies and procedures in conducting oil spill response. Throughout all the incidents, Cook Inlet RCAC was heavily involved in monitoring and providing resources. Cook Inlet RCAC is an active participant in the Unified Command for the Platform Anna spill providing local knowledge and expertise to influence the response. Cook Inlet RCAC also served as a subject matter expert in the environmental monitoring plan following the Platform A gas line leak and participated in over flights to monitor impacts.

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to strengthen oil spill contingency plans and recommend substantive changes to ensure facilities are adequately staffed and that the plans are executable.

Cook Inlet RCAC has initiated a scholarship program to encourage the next generation of stewards committed to protecting and learning about Cook Inlet.

Cook Inlet RCAC is expanding public awareness of Cook Inlet through opening the Tourism Stakeholder Group to include other vested interests in Cook Inlet, including tourism marketing councils, regional chambers of commerce, and other travel and tourism related industry representation.

We look forward to continuing this positive relationship and respectfully request that the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,



Pat Branson  
Mayor, City of Kodiak