



July 3, 2014

USCG-2014-0414
Docket Management Facility
US Department of Transportation
West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140
New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

To Whom it May Concern;

The purpose of this letter is to support the re-certification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council. I have worked closely with both the Prince William Sound RCAC and Cook Inlet RCAC, most recently as an external advisor to the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment. I think that the RCAC concept as implemented in Alaska is a unique example of successful collaboration of industry, citizens, and government that should be replicated in other areas of the country. The Cook Inlet RCAC has been instrumental in four critical areas (1) increasing the knowledge base pertaining the potential for and consequences of oil spills and accidents in Cook inlet, (2) promoting higher standards and improved mitigation measures, (3) providing essential oversight to ensure continuous attention to the safety of the system, and (4) providing an effective means of communicating risk and explaining mitigation strategies to the public. The Cook Inlet RCAC has been a national leader in all four areas.

As stated above, my most recent experience in Cook Inlet has been as a member of the CIRA advisory team. I found that the study, although limited in budget, was well designed and its scope clearly defined. The study was led by local contractors with extensive knowledge of the area, the environment, and critical issues. Meetings were conducted openly with a continuing dialogue between scientists, key stakeholders and individual concerned citizens. I think that this study provides a good example of both the Cook Inlet RCAC's leadership and capability. I strongly recommend that the Cook Inlet RCAC be recertified.

Sincerely,

John R. Harrauld, Ph.D., CAPT USCG (ret)
Associate Director, National Capital Region
Global Forum for Urban and Regional Resilience

