

JOHN J WILLIAMS
PO Box 459, Kenai Alaska 99611
907 252 4500 907 283 4960
Kenai_mayor@hotmail.com

Matthew T. Bell, Jr.
Rear Admiral
United States Coast Guard
Commander 17th Coast Guard District

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Docket Number USCG-2020-0188

Admiral Bell:

This letter is being written in full support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). I have been associated in one manner or another with this organization for the entire 30 years of its existence. I, along with Mayor Gilman of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and others, traveled to Washington, D.C. to request the development of CIRCAC as it was established under OPA 90. From that time to the present I served 18 years as Mayor of the City of Kenai, 3 years as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and nearly 10 years as a representative of the City of Kenai on the CIRCAC Board of Directors, presently and for several past years as its President. My knowledge and understanding of the mission of CIRCAC has grown as has the organization over those years. With my association and experience I am more than able to unequivocally support the recertification of CIRCAC and the continued mission of this organization.

Prior to the creation of CIRCAC, very little was known about the ecological circumstances of Cook Inlet and there were very few base line studies to compare to as the development of Cook Inlet took place. Today, as a result of CIRCAC's 30-year involvement, tremendous effort has been placed, and millions of dollars have been spent on understanding the makeup of the Cook Inlet ecosystem and in protecting its existence. Money has been invested by federal, state and local governments, and by private corporations to gain full knowledge of the dynamics of this great body of water. CIRCAC has produced a long list of accomplishments, including but certainly not limited to:

Successfully advocating for the decommission and dismantling of the Drift River oil terminal and the subsequent construction of the sub sea crude oil pipeline transportation system to facilitate safer oil transportation and reducing tanker traffic to the Marathon (Tesoro) Refinery.

Sea ice monitoring via remote controlled cameras strategically placed throughout upper Cook Inlet.

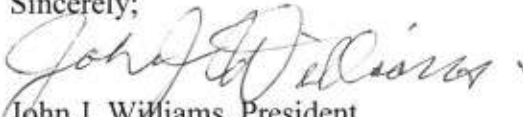
Programs that provide a wide array of stakeholders with valuable information regarding the Cook Inlet such as shoreline mapping, species identification and extensive ocean current studies.

Constructive relationships with all state agencies and industry stakeholders regarding review and development of oil spill contingency plans.

Local scholarship program that awards \$2500.00 scholarships to area students who plan to pursue studies in maritime studies and environmental sciences.

In closing, may I say that it has been my pleasure to have been associated with the CIRCAC organization continuously since its inception some 30 years ago, CIRCAC has successfully added to the knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of Cook Inlet in my estimation, more than any other organization. It is with this knowledge that I whole heartedly and respectfully request that the U.S. Coast Guard recertify CIRCAC so as to continue its mission for the good of all of Cook Inlet and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely;



John J. Williams, President
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council