



14896 Kenai Spur Highway, Suite 103-A • Kenai, AK 99611

Phone: (907) 283-3335 • Fax: (907) 283-3913

[www.kpedd.org](http://www.kpedd.org)

---

*Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development*

July 14, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan Dean

United States Coast Guard

Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District

Docket Number: USCG-2023-0392

Re: Recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Rear Admiral Dean,

I am writing in full support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Since its creation in 1990, CIRCAC 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. CIRCAC has been proactive in working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) on a suite of regulatory updates, approved in 2021. CIRCAC worked with the agency, industry partners and through various public outreach campaigns to educate and support updates that strengthened the state's spill response rules.

Not only does CIRCAC advocate for better regulatory oversight and safety measures, they contribute concrete solutions on how to achieve those goals. This includes 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. No other organization has focused as much attention for as many years to identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region.

CIRCAC continues to provide its stakeholders and the public an avenue through which they can work with industry and regulators to ensure safe operations in the region. Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed and strengthened partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings a varied group of stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

I strongly urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tim Dillon,

Executive Director

Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

Cell: 907-24209709

[Tim@kpedd.org](mailto:Tim@kpedd.org)



**Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)**  
The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development certified KPEDD as an ARDOR in 1989.



**Economic Development District (EDD)**  
The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) recognized KPEDD as an Economic Development District in 1988.