

27 July 2020 Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell, Jr. Seventeenth District Commander (D17) United States Coast Guard PO Box 25517 Juneau, AK 99802-5517 DOC Number USCG- 2020-0188  
Re: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC) Recertification Dear Admiral Bell: I am writing in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Since its inception under the Oil Spill Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, CIRCAC has worked to provide an advisory and oversight role of oil industry activities operating in the Cook Inlet area of Alaska. Over the years, CIRCAC has proved to be crucial for providing coordination between oil industry, government, and local communities/stakeholders. Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc. (KLI) has had the pleasure of working with CIRCAC on a variety of successful environmental projects since 1995 to help them fulfill their mandate of monitoring the biological and chemical environments in the Cook Inlet area and detect impacts of oil industry operations. KLI has also supported CIRCAC with their technical review program, providing expert technical assistance by performing permit reviews and submitting technical comments on oil industry permits, regulations, and oil spill contingency plans. In conducting their scientific sampling program CIRCAC focuses on coordination and collaboration. They have successfully partnered with industry, agencies, contractors, and universities. They include recognized experts in taxonomy, contaminants, oceanography, and analytical and statistical methods to ensure their study designs are robust and will provide results of the highest scientific standards. As a result, the research provides a context in which data from other research efforts in the Inlet and Gulf of Alaska can be interpreted. Throughout all these efforts, CIRCAC and its staff have continually shown a high degree of professionalism and technical quality in all its work representing the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations. I respectfully request that the U.S. Coast Guard recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue its positive work as mandated by the OPA. Sincerely, Mark A. Savoie, Principal Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc. 704 WEST 2 nd AVENUE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 (907) 276-6178 FAX (907) 278-6881