



July 31, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister, Commander
United States Coast Guard district 17
ATTN: Lt. Jonathon Dale
709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Docket Number – USCG-2017-0289

Dear Admiral McAllister:

Koniag, Inc. is a regional Alaska Native Corporation formed under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Koniag, Inc. has approximately 3,900 Alutiiq Shareholders. Our region encompasses the Kodiak Archipelago in the Gulf of Alaska and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula. The communities in our region have traditionally been dependent on fisheries resources for subsistence and commercial purposes for centuries.

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) has applied for recertification in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). CIRCAC is a federally mandated nonprofit organization formed under OPA 90 to provide an avenue for citizen participation in ensuring the safe transport and production of oil in Cook Inlet. With the Kodiak Archipelago located directly southwest of the entrance of Cook Inlet, ensuring environmentally safe oil facility operations and compliant marine transportation of petroleum products within and out of Cook Inlet is important to our region. This potential for an incident in Cook Inlet affecting Kodiak is reflected in there being a seat on the CIRCAC designated for an individual from Kodiak.

Koniag, Inc. supports the recertification of CIRCAC. CIRCAC has been recertified without exception since its creation in 1990. CIRCAC has worked to have a comprehensive Navigation Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet completed; developed Alaska's first Geographic Response Strategies and Shore Zone project; and established an ice-camera network to improve navigation safety. In order to maintain these resources and build on its extensive research on Cook Inlet's biology, chemistry, geomorphology, contaminants and oceanography, it is critical that CIRCAC is recertified.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on CIRCAC's application for recertification and we encourage the US Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Perry
CEO

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