

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel  
Commander, 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
c/o Docket Management Facility (M-30)  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building Ground Floor  
Room W12-140  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: USCG-2014-0414; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Admiral:

I am writing in support of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council's (RCAC) application for recertification.

I believe the Council is continuing to do an excellent job of fulfilling its mandates under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The board of Directors effectively represents the broad and diverse stakeholder groups which are invested in the Cook Inlet region. The Council and staff does an excellent job of working with industry and partners to advance important projects and initiatives to benefit the region and increase our knowledge of the Cook Inlet ecosystem.

The organization has worked conscientiously to objectively represent the many stakeholder interests in the region, and develop meaningful partnerships with industry, local, state and federal governments and Cook Inlet's citizens. Through Cook Inlet RCAC's efforts and leadership, we have made significant progress in the areas of environmental monitoring, and oil spill prevention, response and preparedness.

Cook Inlet RCAC plays an important role as a named reviewer in state regulations of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans for crude oil exploration, production and transportation facilities. Additionally, the Council's robust environmental and biological monitoring program has led to opportunities to partner with experts in the field, is expanding our scientific knowledge of the region, increasing our appreciation for what is at stake and giving us ideas for how best to protect our valuable wildlife and natural resources.

Finally, I have worked with the Council in my professional life both as a member of the regulatory community and as a member of private industry. I have always found the Council

membership and staff to be professional and sincere in the desire to represent citizen's concerns and the best interests of the resources they serve to protect.

For these many reasons, I support the organization and urge the US Coast Guard approve their 2014 application for recertification.

Sincerely,

*Mark R. DeVries*

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