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Citizens promoting the environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers.

Members:

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Chugach Alaska Corporation

City of Cordova

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of Chenega

Community of Tatitlek

Cordova District Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Kodiak Island Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors Association

Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition

Port Graham Corporation

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Anchorage

3709 Spenard Rd, Ste 100
Anchorage, AK 99503
O: (907) 277-7222
(800) 478-7221

Valdez

P.O. Box 3089
130 S. Meals, Ste 202
Valdez, AK 99686
O: (907) 834-5000
(877) 478-7221

July 13, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan Dean
Commander – 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

RE: Docket USCG-2023-0392 – Application for Recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Dear Admiral Dean:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Committee volunteers, and staff of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), I take this opportunity to express our support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as the alternate voluntary advisory group for that region as authorized under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). CIRCAC works within the mandates of OPA 90 to make significant improvements to overall safe operations of oil movement throughout Cook Inlet, working effectively and efficiently with local, state, and federal legislators and regulators, as well as a diverse number of local native and commercial interests, as envisioned by Congress through OPA 90.

CIRCAC has a great track record of helping to ensure environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in their region. This is exemplified by their work conducting risk assessments, sharing data, developing applicable tools and strategies, evaluating best available technology, engaging the public, and reviewing contingency plans and regulations that prioritize prevention while promoting safety. Some examples of work they have undertaken during the past three years which has had a positive effect include:

- Coordination with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation on regulatory updates approved in 2021
- Expanding its Ice Camera Network with industry and regulatory agencies
- Launching a three-year agreement with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to compile historical contaminants data from Cook Inlet into an integrated database for online access
- Updating Alaska ShoreZone visual data with new surveys along the outer Kenai Peninsula coast
- Expanding Geographic Response Information Database (GRID) in scope and accessibility
- Participation on and providing expertise to the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

The PWSRCAC has enjoyed working collaboratively with our counterparts in Cook Inlet, have seen their effectiveness first-hand, and strongly support their request for

recertification. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 907-255-5116, or via e-mail at schantz@pwsrcac.org. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Donna Schantz
Executive Director