

PAUL ALBERTSON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired)

July 7, 2023

Commander (d)
Attn: Rear Admiral Megan M. Dean
Seventeenth Coast Guard District
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

Subject: Support for Recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council,
Docket USCG-2023-0392

Dear Admiral Dean:

As a former deputy (2009-12) and commander (2015-17) of Sector Anchorage, I strongly support the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Based on my experience and firsthand knowledge of CIRCAC's contributions, I believe it is crucial to maintain and support this vital organization.

CIRCAC has proven itself to be a valued partner. Federal, state, and local agencies, the Coast Guard, industry stakeholders, and local communities all recognize the importance of CIRCAC's role in fostering collaboration and addressing critical issues related to the safe and responsible management of oil and gas operations in Cook Inlet.

I unreservedly called on Executive Director Mike Munger and his staff for background and insight into Cook Inlet operations. I called, for example, after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Cook Inlet in 2016 (the strongest of its kind ever recorded in Cook Inlet). There were no standards for oil pipeline testing following a seismic event. Through multiple consults, Mr. Munger presented context, best practices, and sound recommendations that were key to our success in working with stakeholders and ensuring the structural integrity of the oil transportation infrastructure in Cook Inlet.

CIRCAC lives up to its OPA 90 mandate and then some. The Council has developed an impressive string of guidelines, best practices, programs, and projects that effectively promote environmental protection, oil spill prevention, and emergency response preparedness. Cook Inlet and its surrounding communities face ever-evolving challenges. And CIRCAC's leadership, innovation, and inclusivity are instrumental in navigating those challenges.

I urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC in service to Cook Inlet and its stakeholders.

Sincerely,



P. ALBERTSON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)