



2000 Anchorage Port Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-343-6200
PortOfAnchorage@Muni.org
PortOfAnc.com

June 2, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister
Commander – 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
709 W. 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Attn: Lt. Jonathan Dale
Docket Number: USCG-2017-0289

RADM McAllister,

I write to you in support of recertifying the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). In my 10 years at the Port of Anchorage, I have personally witnessed CIRCAC's effectiveness promoting programs to prevent spills, enhance safety in both marine transportation and oil facilities operations; and protection of Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources. In my estimation, no other organization has focused as much attention for as many years to identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region.

My first experience with CIRCAC was their 2008 request to install ice monitoring cameras at the Port of Anchorage. They were a very professional group to work with. That said, though, of particular note it was CIRCAC who stepped up to not only find the funding for, but to sponsor, the recently completed Cook Inlet Risk Assessment; but who also provided the "seed money" to make the newly-chartered Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee a reality. It's my honor to serve on that committee alongside both Mike Munger and Steve Catalano—dedicated and stellar representatives of all that CIRCAC stands for!

Since its founding, CIRCAC has formed many successful partnerships and has encouraged consensus decision-making. CIRCAC brings stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

I truly support the U.S. Coast Guard recertifying CIRCAC so that this valuable and tested organization can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Ribuffo".

STEPHEN RIBUFFO
Port Director
Chairman, Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee