



Regional Citizens' Advisory Council / "Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."

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**MEMBERS**

June 15, 2017

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Michael F. McAllister  
Rear Admiral, Commander - 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
PO Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517  
Attn: Lt. Jonathon Dale

Chugach Alaska Corporation

City of Cordova

City of Homer

RE: Docket USCG 2017-0289, Application for Recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

City of Kodiak

Dear Admiral McAllister:

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of Chenega Bay

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, I express our support for 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 (OPA90). CIRCAC works within the mandates of OPA90 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 OPA90.

Community of Tatitlek

Cordova District Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Kodiak Island Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors Association

Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition

CIRCAC has an impressive track record of initiating programs and projects that help ensure environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operation in their region. This is exemplified by their work with regulators and industry to monitor and address recent spills in Cook Inlet, and their continued efforts to ensure that oil spill prevention and response programs in their region continue to be evaluated and improved. CIRCAC's role was instrumental in seeing the 2015 Cook Inlet Risk Assessment to completion, resulting in comprehensive information on the risks of marine accidents in Cook Inlet that has helped inform on potential spill consequences and selected risk reduction options. Their vessel traffic study added additional information that augments the navigational risk assessment. Another example of CIRCAC's important work can be found in their environmental monitoring efforts. CIRCAC has developed and maintained a comprehensive monitoring program to assess contaminant levels in sediments and on beaches throughout Cook Inlet, creating consistent baseline data that helps identify and assess trends over time.

Port Graham Corporation

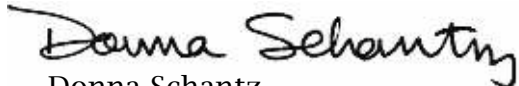
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

We support CIRCAC's recent efforts calling for an immediate comprehensive assessment of the aging infrastructure in Cook Inlet, as well as their recommendation that more frequent and rigorous inspections, site visits, and oil spill response drills and exercises be conducted. Maintaining vigilance and

robust oversight on the integrity of Alaska's oldest oil and gas-producing region is paramount to preventing oil spills.

We have enjoyed working collaboratively with our counterparts in Cook Inlet, and I believe both organizations are committed to exploring additional areas to further this partnership. We have seen CIRCAC's effectiveness firsthand, and strongly support their request for recertification. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 907-834-5000 or via e-mail at [schantz@pwsrccac.org](mailto:schantz@pwsrccac.org). Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Schantz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Schantz  
Executive Director