

Rear Admiral Megan Dean  
Commander – 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
PO Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802 – 5517

August 2, 2023

Dear Admiral Dean,

I am a long time resident of Alaska and have worked in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound. I was working in Cook Inlet when the Exxon Valdez ran aground and worked on protection efforts when oil was headed into the Inlet. The public was not ready, industry was not ready and government was not ready.

When the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, (OPA 90) was enacted it created two Regional Citizens Advisory Councils. These have been a great experiment to engage the public in protecting Alaska's environment, resources and people.

I would like to express my strong support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Council (CIRCAC) as the alternative voluntary advisory group for the Cook Inlet as authorized under OPA-90.

CIRCAC has formed a relationship with industry, government entities and the public that has proved to be beneficial in the safe operation of tank vessels, oil terminals and oil platforms in the Inlet. They ensure adequate response equipment is available in the event of a spill. They have undertaken projects that have enhanced the understanding of the Cook Inlet environment during winter operations, expanding geographic response information in scope and accessibility and creating and maintaining Alaska Shore Zone visual data. CIRCAC has provided vast expertise on the formation and continued operation of the Cook Inlet Safety Committee to promote safe navigation for shipping in the Inlet that presents a challenge to operators.

CIRCAC brings together a diverse collection of professionals and volunteers who understand the complex operations in Cook Inlet. They undertake projects with experts in their field to understand all aspects of safe operations in the Cook Inlet related to the petroleum industry.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 pointed out that compliancy was a major factor in the Exxon Valdez Grounding. As time goes on this factor could creep back into the equation. Maintaining vigilance in all aspects of Environmentally Safe Marine Transportation and Oil Facility Operation in Cook Inlet is a must.

CIRCAC maintains this goal.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert E. Archibald  
Homer, AK