

Robert C. Flint

8631 Muir Court
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

June 23, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel
Commander, 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
c/o Docket Management Facility (M-30)
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building Ground Floor
Room W12-140
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

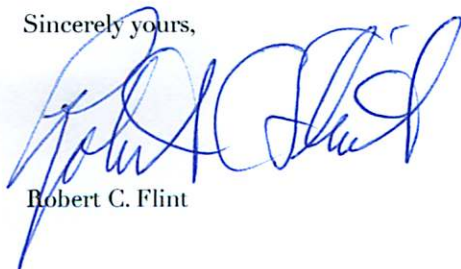
Subject: USCG-2014-0414; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Admiral Abel,

I am writing to you in support of the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as required under OPA 90. I have been involved with CIRCAC since its inspection. First as a regulator when I worked for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and then following my retirement from the State as a committee member and now a director on the council. Over the years I have found that CIRCAC has followed the guidelines set forth in OPA 90 by working closely with the oil industry, regulator agencies and the public they represent. With industry CIRCAC is known for working cooperatively not adversarially to promote safe oil transportation and preparation for effective oil spill response. They have continued to provide meaningful comments to agencies regarding oil development, oil spill response planning, drills and actual spill events. They have, likely most difficult, fairly represented the Cook Inlet stakeholders. That is apparent in the make up of the Council and Committees with representation from environmentalists, developers and middle of the road folks. They have an excellent outreach and information programs. They have also continued to put back into spill response efforts in the region by leading the efforts in geographic response strategies development, leading the development of the Cook Inlet Response Tool which is a significant aid to spill response in Cook Inlet, setting up a camera system in Cook Inlet to aid the NOAA Ice Forecaster in predicting winter ice movement that make shipping in Cook Inlet safer and continued studies on sensitive areas and species to better aid responders in the event of an oil spill.

CIRCAC is the example of what was intended in OPA 90 for a citizen group to work with all parties to make the transportation of oil safer, effective recovery of oil in the event of a spill and minimizing the impacts of an oil release. I encouraged you to re-certify CIRCAC as meeting the requirements of OPA 90.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Flint