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Recommendation for recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

I am writing to express full support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) for the September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015. The CIRCAC has proven to be a truly effective advisory council for the citizens of the Cook Inlet, with representation of the diverse industries and cultures located throughout the communities, municipalities and boroughs surrounding Cook Inlet. The CIRCAC provides a well-balanced public perspective on the oil and gas activities occurring in Cook Inlet. This perspective stems from both open public dialog and well researched science and technical reports. Their efforts in bringing their research and public perspectives together to advise operators and regulators have made them an invaluable part of the success story that is today's Cook Inlet oil and gas renaissance.

Having worked on navigation issues in the inlet for many years, one project I truly appreciate their leadership in has been the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment. This Risk Assessment, dovetailing with their proven ability to bring a cross-section of public and private interest together and their commitment to well-researched topics is producing timely information that will guide safe marine transportation throughout Cook Inlet. With our challenging environment and growing oil and gas industry, safe navigation now and into the future is critical. However, just as critical is having the citizens advising the industry and the federal and state regulators on their safety concerns and expectations. The CIRCAC, through the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment is bringing this advice together with the research and recommendations so that safe navigation decisions can be made for the success of all.

I encourage your recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Commission and appreciate your support for and respect of their work on behalf of us that depend on Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Pawlowski

Captain, NOAA (Ret)