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*American Boat and Yacht Council
United States Surveyors Association
Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers*

15 July 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel
Commander 17th District
United States Coast Guard
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket USCG-2014-0414, Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Sir,

Please accept this letter in support of recertifying Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as the OPA 90 entity charged with oversight of environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in the Cook Inlet Alaska region.

CIRCAC has throughout its history demonstrated the highest standards of care and excellence in executing its mission, and has earned the respect of constituent municipalities, fishing and aquaculture associations, recreational and environmental groups, Alaska Native organizations, and business. The collective perspective of the Board of Directors has proven to be a valuable link between agencies and industry.

Among many accomplishments, CIRCAC has developed ice monitoring capacity available to all mariners transiting the area, grown a coastal mapping cooperative, developed and maintained oil spill response capacity and identified assets through drills and training, conducted and catalogued numerous scientific baseline analyses, worked with operators' Ballast Water Plans and Discharge Reports, all in addition to core review of oil tanker and terminal facility contingency plan review (as well as non-tank vessel plan review).

I have had many opportunities to observe and work with the organization over the past fifteen years, and appreciative the work accomplished. Many of the achievements weren't even thought of only a few years ago, and I'm sure that CIRCAC will continue to innovate and provide tools and information to the industry that we can't imagine today.

Over the past two years I've been the public sector representative for the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment panel, a group charged with looking at all sectors of marine transportation through the Cook Inlet region, assessing incident modes and developing mitigation and avoidance strategies. Throughout that process CIRCAC has continued to bring relevant historical knowledge and current day expertise to the discussion, and the end product is better for it.

I do hope you will find it to be in the public's interest to recertify the organization, and therefore continue and build on the good work accomplished to date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald E. Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald E. Long