



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Sarah Vance

House District 6 ~ Chair House Fisheries ~ Chair House Judiciary

Rear Admiral Megan Dean  
United States Coast Guard  
Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
Docket Number: USCG-2023-0392

July 26, 2023

Rear Admiral Dean:

I am writing in full support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). For 30 years, CIRCAC has been Cook Inlet's most effective organization for promoting programs to prevent spills, enhance safety in both marine transportation and oil facilities operations, and protect Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources.

CIRCAC works with industry partners and through various public outreach campaigns to educate and support updates that strengthened the state's spill response rules. I have personally participated in some of their spill response drills in Kachemak Bay and attest to the attention to professionalism and maintaining the highest standards of response!

Not only does CIRCAC advocate for better regulatory oversight and safety measures, but they also contribute concrete solutions on how to achieve those goals. This includes conducting risk assessments, sharing data, developing applicable tools and strategies, evaluating best available technology, engaging the public, and thoroughly reviewing contingency plans and regulations that prioritize prevention while promoting safety. No other organization has focused as much attention for as many years to identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region.

Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed and strengthened partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings a varied group of stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

I strongly urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Vance".

Representative Sarah Vance