

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel Abel
Commander, 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517


Dear Admiral Abel:

Please accept my endorsement for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Cook Inlet RCAC has been at the forefront of important initiatives to improve Cook Inlet's navigational safety and oil spill prevention and response capabilities, as well as to advance our scientific understanding of the region's environment and protect its wildlife and natural resources from the harmful effects of spills.

I have worked closely with Cook Inlet RCAC for many years, both as the mayor of Anchorage and in my capacity as United States Senator for Alaska. I have watched Cook Inlet RCAC make a concerted effort to develop partnerships with industry; with local, state and federal governments; and with the residents of Cook Inlet. These relationships are important to enhancing our understanding of the region and there are many beneficiaries of the research and studies they have done through their coastal habitats, biological and chemical monitoring, oil behavior, and physical oceanography programs.

I look forward to working with you for Alaska, and I hope you will give every consideration to Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification. Should you have any questions, please contact Bob King in my office at (202)224-0319.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator