

June 19, 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

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

Dear Admiral:

I write to express my support 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 advance our scientific understanding of the region's environment to better enable us to protect its wildlife and natural resources from the harmful effects of spills. Cook Inlet RCAC has achieved significant accomplishments in the areas of environmental monitoring, and oil spill prevention, response and preparedness, a result of a concerted effort to foster and develop a partnership with industry, local, state and federal governments and the citizens of Cook Inlet.

I particularly value the organization's ability to represent and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. The relationship with Cook Inlet RCAC has been important to enhancing lawmakers' understanding of the region. Citizens and lawmakers are beneficiaries of the research and studies they have done through their coastal habitats, biological and chemical monitoring, oil behavior, and physical oceanography programs. As a named reviewer of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) for crude oil exploration, production, and transportation facilities, Cook Inlet RCAC proves its tremendous value on an ongoing basis. I welcome opportunities to work together with the Board of Directors, Committees and staff and share information that can make oil facility operations and marine transportation in the Inlet safer.

I look forward to continuing this positive relationship and respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Respectfully,

Senator Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee