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Senator Gary Stevens

Alaska State Legislature

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July 7, 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 Able:

As the Alaska State Senator for District R, I offer my endorsement for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC).

Cook Inlet RCAC's persistent, objective approach builds consensus among citizens, members of industry, and regulatory agencies. Improvements in environmental monitoring, oil spill prevention, and spill response can be traced to their work in addressing the mandates contained in OPA90.

The Cook Inlet is extremely important to the commercial fishing industry, the tourism industry, and the citizens I represent. An oil spill would devastate the economy, environment, and morale of the area's coastal communities. I applaud the efforts of Cook Inlet RCAC to improve oil spill prevention measures and focus attention on issues important to the citizens of the region. Fishing is a major part of the economic engine for this region. For its part, the RCAC has played a vital role in raising awareness and improving spill preparedness that protects our resources.

Cook Inlet RCAC continues work that improves marine transportation and oil facilities operation in Cook Inlet. I ask for your support of its recertification and thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gary Stevens", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Gary Stevens

Senate District R
Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us