

# SOUTHWEST ALASKA PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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June 30, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister  
Commander – 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
709 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Attn: Lt. Jonathan Dale  
Docket No. USCG-2017-0289

Dear Lt. Dale:

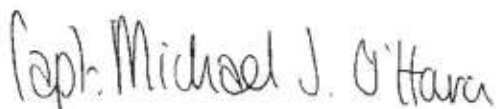
## **Recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC)**

Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) fully supports the recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Over many years, CIRCAC has proven to be an effective organization for promoting the protection of Cook Inlet and identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region.

CIRCAC addresses public awareness of Cook Inlet and has been active in contributing to the development of Cook Inlet's first Harbor Safety Plan. Representatives from CIRCAC and SWAPA actively participate in both the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and affiliated workgroups. CIRCAC's ice camera network provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions which aids forecasters and thereby increases navigation safety. Ice conditions in Cook Inlet can be hazardous for marine traffic and reliable, current ice data is imperative to ensure safe navigation for vessels transiting Cook Inlet during the harsh winter months.

SWAPA fully supports the recertification of CIRCAC. We believe they are an important organization bringing stakeholders together in the Alaska Maritime industry to help ensure the protection of the marine environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Captain Michael J. O'Hara  
President

by JLR