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Matthew T. Bell, Jr.  
Rear Admiral  
United States Coast Guard  
Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District

June 17, 2020

SUBJ: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Recertification Application; Docket Number: USCG-2020-0188

Dear Admiral Bell:

I am environmental attorney 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.

I served for six years on the Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety (PROPS) Committee (PROPS) committee. I am continually impressed by the professionalism, expertise and dedication of all members to the CIRCAC and PROPS. The CIRCAC continues to strengthen oil spill contingency plans and recommend substantive changes to ensure facilities are adequately staffed and that the plans are executable. The people and environment of the Cook Inlet and State of Alaska are far better prepared to safely and effectively plan for, and respond to an oil release in the very challenging and environmentally sensitive Cook Inlet because of the fine work of the CIRCAC.

The Council and its committees are sensitive to their mandates and mission under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) and always seek to fully comply within the bounds of its statutory jurisdiction. 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.

Very respectfully;

Steven P. Lufkin

Submit comments at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USCG-2020-0188>