



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

8 July 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District
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

(by fax, 202-493-2251)

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

Dear Admiral Abel:

On behalf of Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, I would like to express our support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC).

We are a recognized tribal government headquartered in Kodiak, Alaska. We represent over 1,600 Sun'aq citizens who reside on the island of Kodiak, elsewhere in Cook Inlet and Alaska, in the lower 48 states, and overseas.


As a certified organization, we are also represented by the Cook Inlet RCAC as a stakeholder group. We believe that Cook Inlet RCAC represents an important voice on our behalf, as well as the other diverse stakeholder groups and citizens within the Cook Inlet region. The organization is mindful of the potential impacts a catastrophic oil spill could have on areas, such as ours which are downstream of industrial activities and transportation. With heightened interest in Cook Inlet exploration and development, it is more important than ever that an effective and respected mechanism be in place to represent Cook Inlet's citizens in monitoring and promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations.

Through Cook Inlet RCAC's efforts and leadership, we have made significant progress in the areas of environmental monitoring, and oil spill prevention, response and preparedness. They ensured that Kodiak Island was included in the Alaska ShoreZone coastal habitat mapping program. The information they gathered--as well as the Cook Inlet Response Tool, which they helped develop--was important to responders during the recent grounding of the Shell rig *Kulluk*, at Sitkalidak Island near us.

Their many projects are working to make Cook Inlet safer for marine transportation. The results of their studies improve our ability to prevent, plan for and respond to oil spills.

We look forward to supporting them in these efforts and in future projects, and respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,



JJ Marsh, Chair, Sun'aq Tribal Council
file

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