

July 10, 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, DC 20590-0001

Dear Admiral:

Reference: USCG-2014-0414 - Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

I am writing on behalf of Tesoro Corporation in support of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC) 2014 recertification.

Tesoro Alaska has served the fuel transportation needs of the western United States for more than 45 years. We are a leading independent refiner and marketer of petroleum products, committed to operating responsibly in the communities we serve. Our headquarters is in San Antonio, Texas, and we operate across 18 states. Our Alaska refinery is located on the Cook Inlet, 60 miles southwest of Anchorage, and can process up to 72,000 barrels per day (bpd). The refinery produces gasoline and gasoline blendstocks, jet fuel, diesel fuel, heating oil and heavy fuel oils, propane and asphalt. The crude oil is delivered by double-hulled tankers through Cook Inlet and by pipeline from the Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet.

As one of their partners and funding companies, we have worked closely with Cook Inlet RCAC to make our operations as safe and protective of Cook Inlet's marine and coastal resources as possible.

Cook Inlet RCAC was involved in a project I spearheaded to bring more advanced oil spill recovery technology to Alaska. This particular endeavor took years to come to fruition, involved state regulators, industry, oil spill response organizations and shippers, and required multiple tests and modifications. We welcomed Cook Inlet RCAC's support and encouragement. I am pleased to say that, as a result of this kind of teamwork, new skimming technology has been approved for use in Alaska.

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Cook Inlet RCAC is regarded as an effective voice on behalf of their diverse group of stakeholders. They lobbied hard for a dedicated docking assist and rescue tug for Cook Inlet. The *Bob Franco* is testament not only to Tesoro Alaska's commitment to safety, but also to Cook Inlet RCAC's persistence and determination. In addition, our pilots depend on the accurate marine ice forecasts made possible through their Ice Forecasting Network of Cameras to safely navigate the Inlet during the challenging winter ice conditions.

These are but a few of the many reasons we support Cook Inlet RCAC and their application for recertification.

Sincerely,

Eric Haugstad
Director, Contingency Planning & Emergency Response
Tesoro Petroleum Corporation