

June 27, 2014

I am writing this letter of support for the recertification application submitted by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (CIRCAC) docket number USCG-2014-0414.

Over the past year it has been my pleasure to collaborate with members of CIRCAC, most notably their Director of Science and Research, Susan Saupe. As a founding member of the ShoreZone partnership in Alaska, CIRCAC has been instrumental in continuing the coastal habitat mapping and imaging program for improving shoreline protections. The ShoreZone project was initiated in Cook Inlet thirteen years ago by CIRCAC and with their hard work and guidance it has grown into a statewide partnership of dozens of other agencies and organizations.

CIRCAC and I have collaborated on joint presentations during various science symposia and ShoreZone training workshops for industry and the public. While partnering on these educational outreach events, Sue Saupe has been a pivotal mentor allowing me to understand the depth, uses and applications of the ShoreZone database. This has proved extremely valuable as I can then take this knowledge and further the partnership by engaging stakeholders, various user groups and form new partnerships.

As a ShoreZone steering committee member, CIRCAC has provided overall logistical expertise to our partnership and initiated coastal habitat surveys and shoreline mapping. CIRCAC has also been a founding partner for the Coastal and Arctic Impressions photo books that highlight and publish ShoreZone imagery. This engaging outreach tool allows easy visualization of our important work and helps attain broad support for the program.

ShoreZone is an essential coastal tool for oil spill response and planning, search and rescue, fisheries habitat management, recreation planning, and a variety of other uses. It's past accomplishments and continued success is directly related to CIRCAC's involvement and guidance.

For these reasons, I fully support CIRCAC's application for recertification and wanted to comment on their value to Alaska's coastal protection.

Sincerely,



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