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Megan Dean  
Rear Admiral  
United States Coast Guard  
Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District

Docket Number USCG-2023-0392

Admiral Dean:

This letter is being written in full support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). I have been associated in one manner or another with this organization for the entirety of its 33-year existence. I, along with Mayor Gilman of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and others, traveled to Washington, D.C. to request the development of CIRCAC as it was established under OPA 90. From that time to the present, I served 18 years as Mayor of the City of Kenai, three years as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and 12 years as a representative of the City of Kenai on the CIRCAC Board of Directors, including nine years as its President. My knowledge and understanding of the mission of CIRCAC has grown as has the organization over those years. With my association and experience I am more than able to unequivocally support the recertification of CIRCAC and the continued mission of this organization.

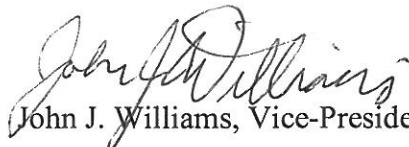
Prior to the creation of CIRCAC, very little was known about the ecological circumstances of Cook Inlet and there were very few baseline studies to compare to as the development of Cook Inlet took place. Today, as a result of CIRCAC's 33-year involvement, tremendous effort has been placed, and millions of dollars have been spent on understanding the makeup of the Cook Inlet ecosystem and in protecting its existence. Money has been invested by federal, state, and local government, and by private corporations to gain full knowledge of the dynamics of this great body of water. CIRCAC has produced a long list of accomplishments, including but certainly not limited to:

- *Updated Alaska ShoreZone visual data with new surveys along the outer Kenai Peninsula coast*
- *Received study plan approval from BOEM for data needs for model validation in Cook Inlet*
- *Advocated for a strengthening of oil spill prevention and response regulations*
- *Increased public outreach efforts through new, local advertising, exhibits and expanding audiences for its newsletter, website, and social media*
- *Expanded Geographic Response Information Database (GRID) in scope and accessibility*

- *Participated on and provide expertise to the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee*
- *Expanded the Cook Inlet Ice Monitoring Camera Network with modern video technology*
- *Local scholarship program that awards (3) \$2,500 scholarships to area students who plan to pursue studies in maritime studies and environmental sciences.*

In closing, may I say that it has been my pleasure to have been associated with the CIRCAC organization continuously since its inception more than 30 years ago. CIRCAC has successfully added to the knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of Cook Inlet in my estimation, more than any other organization. It is with this knowledge that I whole heartedly and respectfully request that the U.S. Coast Guard recertify CIRCAC so as to continue its mission for the good of all of Cook Inlet and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



John J. Williams, Vice-President

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advdsory Council